

The Advertiser

FIERCE BAYS EARN STRIPES

Glenelg players celebrate their Grand Final victory. Picture: SANFL Image/David Mariuz



TIGER KINGS

+ SOUVENIR TEAM POSTER INSIDE

2023 SANFL PREMIERS

Eva Blandis

Like the Tigers of old, they were strong and bold – and yesterday that mantra helped Glenelg win its sixth premiership.

Even better, the victory came against a gallant Sturt which had beaten them in their three previous grand final clashes.

“I have been striving for this and it does not seem real right now,” said Lachie Hosie, who booted six goals and was best afield. “I love this club so much, love the boys.”

The 24-point win came in front of 33,000 fans at Adelaide Oval.

REPORTS, P7 AND SPORT

After 49 years, Tigers finally shake off Double Blues grand final hoodoo

BAYS BLITZ PUTS STURT TO SWORD

Andrew Capel

It took four attempts but Glenelg has finally beaten Sturt in a SANFL grand final.

Forty-nine years after the Tigers lost the 1974 premiership decider to the Double Blues - Sturt's third grand final victory against them in six years - the boys from the Bay gained some long awaited redemption.

They on Sunday beat the Double Blues at their own game, dominating at the coal-face through a winning mid-field led by Corey Lyons and getting a best afield display from Ken Farmer medallist Lachie Hosie, who bagged six goals, to win by 24 points at Adelaide Oval.

It was Glenelg's sixth premiership and second in five years in what was its 20th grand final appearance.

The tenacious Tigers ripped the game from Sturt's grasp early and then held it at arm's length throughout in warm, 28-degree conditions.

The final margin probably flattered the Double Blues, despite them having one more scoring shot.

Glenelg, with on-ballers Lyons, Cole Gerloff, Matthew Snook and Brett Turner ferocious at the contest, kicked the only four goals of the first quarter to open up a 24-point lead.

Then, every time Sturt looked like getting back into the game, first-year coach Darren Reeves' men found something.

They burst to a game-high 41-point lead early in the third quarter and held sway by 37 points at the final change before closing the match down.

The Double Blues, chasing their 16th flag, fought the game out valiantly, kicking 2.8 to 1.1 in the last term, but it was too little, too late.

The Tigers - this year's minor premier after posting a



Glenelg's Liam McBean handballs during the SANFL grand final. Picture: SANFL Image/David Mariuz

15-3 home-and-away season record - set the tone early, winning the contested ball and ensuring they would stop Sturt from strangling them.

They signalled their intent from the opening bounce, playing tough, crash-and-bash football and winning the clearances against Sturt's dynamic midfield duo of Tom Lewis and James Battersby.

Glenelg drew first blood through a brilliant snap from the north-western pocket from Hosie, who won the Jack Oatey Medal as best afield, as the Double Blues missed opportunities at the other end, with Connor McFadyen and James Richards both hitting the post.

The Tigers' on-ball dominance soon paid dividends with Hosie kicking his second and Luke Reynolds, who bagged three for the game, and Gerloff also hitting the scoreboard as they skipped to a 24-point lead. The one-sided statistics told the story of their opening quarter dominance as they led clearances 13-5, inside 50s 12-6, disposals 86-54 and marks 24-8.

Sturt wrestled back control at ground level in the second quarter, with Battersby and Lewis starting to have an influence, but it wasn't able to hurt Glenelg on the scoreboard.

The Double Blues kicked three consecutive behinds be-

fore Oliver Grivell booted their first major from a down-field free kick eight minutes into the term.

In contrast, the Tigers were making the most of their chances and clever snap shot goals from Hosie and Reynolds and a superb 40m set shot from just inside the boundary line from Lyons, from his 17th disposal, pushed their lead out to 29 points at the long break.

Glenelg appeared to break the game wide open early in the third stanza when James Bell and Hosie goaled to push its advantage out to 41 points.

The Blues kicked three consecutive goals to close to within 23 points but the Tigers, as they did all day, responded to march to victory.

SANFL GRAND FINAL
GLENELG V STURT



4.3	0.3
7.5	2.6
12.7	6.6
13.8	8.14
86	62

CAPEL'S BEST - Glenelg: Hosie, Lyons, Snook, Gerloff, Turner, Bell, Reynolds, Proud. **Sturt:** Battersby, Dakin, Lewis, Edmonds, Voss.

GOALS - Glenelg: Hosie 6, Reynolds 3, Gerloff, Lyons, Bell, Allen. **Sturt:** Mathews 2, Grivell, Burrows, Richards, Coombas, Frederick, Voss.

UMPIRES - Morgan, Bowen, Scott.

CROWD - 33,049 at Adelaide Oval.

JACK OATEY MEDAL - Lachie Hosie



Sturt's Daniel Fahey-Sparks and Glenelg's Cameron McGree battle during the SANFL grand final at Adelaide Oval on Sunday and (inset) Glenelg's Luke Reynolds celebrates after kicking a goal. Pictures: SANFL Image/David Mariuz

Hosie stands tallest with six-pack

Warren Partland

Glenelg forward Lachie Hosie's football life for the past two years has focused on redemption.

The flamboyant star, this year's Ken Farmer medallist as the state league's leading goalkicker, had doubted himself to perform on the "big stage" following the grand-final defeat to Woodville-West Torrens in 2021.

The pain of that hefty loss had not deserted him until Sunday when his heavy influence in the Tigers' grand-final triumph over Sturt at Adelaide Oval was recognised with the Jack Oatey Medal for a best-on-ground performance.

"A lot of us took that loss in 2021 personally," said Hosie, who missed the Tigers' 2019 grand-final triumph after being picked up by North

Melbourne in the mid-season draft.

"I had a dirty day in 2021, did not go near the ball.

"People talk and you listen to that.

"I wanted to prove them wrong.

"That is why to stand up on the big stage and contribute to a premiership is what means the most to me.

"That loss, and I did not have the greatest day, has sat with me until now and this is redemption.

"I have been striving for this and it does not seem real right now."

Hosie created havoc for the Double Blues' defence and finished with six goals.

His opening goal seven minutes into Sunday's title decider was typical Hosie, a stunning snap from deep in a pocket.

He conceded that he en-

joyed the goal.

However, it was two goals in the third term when the Double Blues were making a run which gave him most satisfaction.

"In clutch moments, that's what you want to do as a forward," Hosie said.

"I play alongside two really, really good forwards in Liam (McBean) and Luke (Reynolds) and they talk about the three-headed monster, if one goes quiet, the other two get you."

Hosie was in the crowd when the Tigers raised the cup in glory and he celebrated "hard with them".

"It is going to be a hell of a lot better this time," Hosie said.

"To be a Jack Oatey medallist, I can't fathom that.

"I love this club so much, love the boys.

"This is very special."



Glenelg's Lachie Hosie with the Jack Oatey Medal for best on ground in the SANFL grand final on Sunday. Picture: SANFL Image/David Mariuz

SPORT



2023 SANFL PREMIERS

SOUVENIR POSTER INSIDE



Glenelg's Lachlan Hosie celebrates a goal, and (inset) jubilant Tigers players after the final siren. Pictures: Cory Sutton/SANFL



SIX-GOAL HOSIE HELPS GLENELG CLAIM DECIDER OVER STURT

PERFECT BAYS

	GLENELG	86
	4.3 7.5 12.7 13.8	
	STURT	62
	0.3 2.6 6.6 8.14	
SANFL GRAND FINAL CROWD: 33,049 AT ADELAIDE OVAL		

Andrew Capel

Victorious Glenelg coach Darren Reeves said he had never seen his dad cry before – until Sunday afternoon.

The first-year Tigers mentor, who wasn't appointed coach until just

before Christmas last year, said his dad Geoff broke down in tears, overcome with pride, after Glenelg won its sixth SANFL flag with a 24-point victory over Sturt – led by six goals from forward Lachie Hosie.

"The thing that tells me the significance of it all is that I haven't seen

my dad cry my whole life, and he was in tears after the game," Reeves said. "And he's not a football person, he hasn't grown up with football or really understood it.

"But I think that probably tells a story of the significance of what we have been able to achieve."

Reeves, a former wicketkeeper who spent a year at the Australian Cricket Academy in Adelaide in 1997, joined a small group of coaches to lead Glenelg to a premiership – Bruce McGregor, Neil Kerley, Graham Cornes (two) and Mark Stone.

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Perfect day for Reeves' Tigers

From back page

Remarkably, he did it in his first year – a year in which the Bays clinched the league/reserves premiership double for the first time after they beat Sturt in both grand finals.

"On the day I got appointed to the job I walked into the changerooms and on the board there were four premiership coaches in club history, which sort of blew my mind a little bit because I hadn't looked at it

too closely," Reeves said. "To be the fifth premiership coach of the footy club, when they've been so hard to win, with this group, which is just phenomenal, not just the players but the whole footy club, it's incred-



Tigers coach Darren Reeves

ible. "They are hungry for success and haven't been able to get it over the past couple of years, but they just went to work on getting to the point where we are now."

Reeves, who replaced Brett Hand as coach after he had irreconcilable differences with the playing group, brought a harder edge and a more defensive game plan to Glenelg,

which he knew had talent but felt needed to play more finals-type football.

The Tigers finished the minor round as the No. 1 defensive team in the league.

"I knew they were a talented list and my grounding and learning over the past few years, losing some grand finals at North Adelaide (as assistant coach), probably taught me a little bit," he said.

"But I had an idea of how I wanted to play, I think it fitted really well with the playing group and talent that we had. I just needed to get them to buy in, we trained it from day one, and to their credit they have been phenomenal.

"On the big stage of a grand final, it held up for us."

GOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL

Eva Blandis

They arrived from everywhere – from the 'burbs to the bush – full of expectation, hoping to see their boys hoist the Premiership Cup.

A sea of gold and black, and double blue and white on a perfect Sunday afternoon at Adelaide Oval. Just over 33,000 fans – mums, dads, kids, mates.

"How good's this?" said one fan, adorned with a Sturt scarf and chugging on a beer. "Proper footy, grassroots, everyone having a good time."

In the end, as the cliché goes, – only one team could get the "choccies" – and this time it was the Bays.

The fighting fury from Tiger-land, by 24 points.

Glenelg fans Kyle Robertson, 34, and partner Emily Mesecke, 36, said the win was even more special as it was their four-month-old son Harlyn's first grand final.

"It's a very special day," Ms Mesecke said.

The young family was joined by relatives who said supporting the Tigers was "in our blood".

"It's very good to spend a day like this with family," Ms Mesecke said. "The little one's grand final has been a huge success."

Sturt supporter Mel Laycock, 45, and Glenelg supporter Jess Grussu, 39, met at the grand final and hit it off despite going for different teams.

Ms Laycock said she was disappointed to see Sturt lose.

"My Dad is a supporter, that's why I'm here," she said. Ms Grussu said she was "over the moon" at the win.

"I feel very good," she said.

Glenelg supporters celebrate the grand final win, on the hill at Adelaide Oval. Pictures: Matt Loxton



Kyle Robertson, Emily Mesecke holding Harlyn Robertson, 4 months, and Mark and Sarah Mesecke (top); Louis McDonald and Kasey Cummings (above); and Matthew and Austin Hancock (below).

"My husband has been in tears. The last time they won, he got home at 5.30am."

Louis McDonald, who barracks for Sturt, and Kasey Cummings, a Glenelg fan, said that supporting different teams had never caused any problems.

"Kasey also barracks for Crows and I barrack for Port," Mr McDonald said. "It's not a deal-breaker, it's been all friendly from the get-go."

Mr McDonald said he had barracked for Sturt since playing with the club as a junior.

The Grinham family, who are devoted Sturt supporters, said they would always support their team despite the loss. "It's a family thing," Mr Grinham said.

"It's also great to catch up with friends."

Zoe Maloney, 20, Kirsten Holt, 19, and Kayla Sanders, 20, all of whom board at Aquinas College, attended the match to support their mates Sam Breuer and Charlie Milan who played in Sturt's reserves.

"We were really wanting Sturt to win for that very reason," Ms Maloney said.

Ms Holt and Ms Sanders, from western Victoria, said the match was even more exciting because they went to school with Sturt reserves player Josh Rentsch.

"It's pretty cool seeing someone you went to school with on a big oval like Adelaide Oval,"

Ms Holt said. Matthew Hancock and 11-year-old son Austin follow family tradition by supporting the Tigers.

"I wanted the Bays to win," Austin said. "I don't remember them winning before. I just love them all."

Austin said his main reason for supporting Glenelg was because his Dad "loves them, and we live at Brighton".

Mr Hancock, 46, said taking his son to a Tigers grand final was special.

"My family have always loved them," he said.

"So, we're keeping the tradition alive." Mr Hancock said to "finally beat Sturt was nice". "I wanted to see Sturt absolutely demolished," he said.



Reeva's Final Word

League– Adelaide Oval, Sunday 24th September, 2:30pm

Glenelg	4.3	7.5	12.7	13.8	86
Sturt	0.3	2.6	6.6	8.14	62

Goals: Lachie Hosie 6, Luke Reynolds 3, Matt Allen, James Bell, Cole Gerloff, Corey Lyons

Best: Lachie Hosie, Corey Lyons, Matt Snook, Cole Gerloff, Brett Turner, Brodie Newman

Reserves– Adelaide Oval, Sunday 24th September, 11:00am

Glenelg	3.3	5.4	7.8	11.10	76
Sturt	2.1	6.2	9.3	10.6	66

Goals: Nick Leck 3, Austin Kitschke 2, Hunter Window 2, Will Chandler, Jordan Moore, Darcy Scott, Brady Searle

Best: Reid Kuller, Jared Deep, Brady Searle, Jake Walker



Premiers 2023

I'm sure those are the words that have made all our amazing supporters smile and walk taller over the last few days. From day one of preseason our playing group and coaching staff had only one thing in mind, and for us to go out and win both League and Reserves premierships for the first time in our great club's history is great reward for all.

There were a lot of questions asked and lots of thoughts and opinions on our preparation into the grand final, especially having only played one game over the last month. But internally we couldn't have had a better lead into the game for both teams. With essentially every player on our list available for selection, together with some training sessions over the last month that were as fierce and high quality as any I have ever seen at this level, the entire group were ready to produce their best effort, and that is exactly what they were able to do. A lot of credit to Tom Stevens and the high performance team for having our group in this position.

We had two strong focuses into the game – being relentless with our hunt and pressure, together with our defensive action to take away time and space with the ball, and therefore Sturt's ability to move the ball by foot. Right from the first bounce we could sense that we were locked in – our ability to dominate around contest and own territory for long periods turned into scoreboard reward. In big games, the best pressure is

on the scoreboard and the first quarter most certainly set up the game for us. While my feeling was that we had potentially not got as much reward as we possibly deserved, we couldn't not have been happier with how our first half turned out.

A focus at half-time was that we had overused the ball by hand a little and gone away from being a kicking team. The start of the third quarter was very strong as we kicked the first two goals and played a strong brand. As always though, there are momentum shifts against good teams and to Sturt's credit, they played some solid football through the mid part of the third quarter. As we had been able to do over the day, we were able to find a way to be the next to score, and some good work at the end of the third quarter kept the game in our control but still far from comfortable. The last played out much the same as we had expected, and pleasingly our group were able to withstand and keep the game in our control. As a coaching group we couldn't be prouder of how the players went about it and they deserve the reward for all their effort.

The Reserves group had to battle hard for the full 104 minutes to get the result that they deserved. Without doubt they have been the best team right throughout the season, playing a strong brand of football consistently. We have spoken several times over the season about the talent and the excitement we have in several players in this group, and for them to experience this and the challenge they had to overcome to get the result that they deserved is great for

their development. Like our League group, we couldn't be prouder of everyone involved over the season.

League and Reserve premierships in the one season is an outstanding effort.

From my own perspective, I'm still pinching myself. There is relief, there is excitement and mostly pride. I have been asked several times over the last few days, what does this mean to me. I think the thing that sums it up most is the emotion and the joy that a lot of the past players and legends of our club have shown over the last few days speaks enormously about what this means to our football club and our community. That is what it is all about.

There are so many people that go into making this happen, including our volunteers and support staff, our high performance team, our medical staff, our football club staff, our coaching group, our board and club staff, and most importantly our supporters. I can't thank everyone enough. It is a complete team effort by all to get to this point.

We will let this settle in a little, but what is for certain is we are not satisfied, and soon enough we will get stuck into going again and getting after the 2024 season with the same goal in mind. I can't wait for that.

GO BAYS – PREMIERS 2023

–Darren Reeves, Senior Coach
glenelgfc.com.au

2023 Grand Final -- Score by Score

First Quarter									
03:04	Glenelg behind	Liam McBean (0.1) takes ball out of ruck duel and snaps a point from 30m out	Glenelg - 1 pt						
04:23	Sturt behind	Connor McFadyen (0.1)	Even						
07:28	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (1.0) snaps goal from boundary line 30m out after Cole Gerloff high mark and forward entry	Glenelg - 6 pts						
10:03	Sturt behind	James Richards (0.1)	Glenelg - 5 pts						
12:03	Glenelg behind	Matthew Allen (0.1) marks from Hugh Stagg pass and kicks point from 45m set shot on no angle	Glenelg - 6 pts						
13:40	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (2.0) marks from Corey Lyons pass and kicks goal from 35m set shot on no angle	Glenelg - 12 pts						
16:06	Glenelg behind	Rushed. James Bell snap from 50m is spoiled through for a point	Glenelg - 13 pts						
17:10	Glenelg Goal	Luke Reynolds (1.0) marks from hurried Corey Lyons kick and kicks goal from 20m set shot	Glenelg - 19 pts						
24:19	Sturt behind	Connor McFadyen (0.2)	Glenelg - 18 pts						
26:42	Glenelg Goal	Cole Gerloff (1.0) marks from hurried clearing kick by Sturt and kicks goal from 45m set shot on slight angle	Glenelg - 24 pts						
Second Quarter									
03:44	Sturt behind	Joshua Hone (0.1)	Glenelg - 23 pts						
05:20	Sturt behind	Joshua Hone (0.2)	Glenelg - 22 pts						
06:57	Sturt behind	Oliver Grivell (0.1)	Glenelg - 21 pts						
08:33	Sturt Goal	Oliver Grivell (1.1)	Glenelg - 15 pts						
10:28	Glenelg Goal	Luke Reynolds (2.0) snaps goal under pressure from 35m straight in front after Brett Turner handpass	Glenelg - 21 pts						
17:00	Glenelg behind	Archie Lovelock (0.1) marks from Hugh Stagg pass and kicks point from 40m set shot on 45 degree angle	Glenelg - 22 pts						
17:56	Glenelg behind	Lachlan Hosie (2.1) snaps point from near point post after Cole Gerloff kick to the goalsquare	Glenelg - 23 pts						
19:44	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (3.1) snaps goal from 40m from Luke Partington handpass	Glenelg - 29 pts						
23:14	Sturt Goal	Lachlan Burrows (1.0)	Glenelg - 23 pts						
26:55	Glenelg Goal	Corey Lyons (1.0) receives free and kicks goal from 45m out near the boundary line	Glenelg - 29 pts						
Third Quarter									
00:51	Glenelg Goal	James Bell (1.0) crumbs the ball from a Liam McBean marking contest and snaps goal from 45m	Glenelg - 35 pts						
05:01	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (4.1) marks from Corey Lyons pass and kicks goal from 35m set shot on slight angle	Glenelg - 41 pts						
07:42	Sturt Goal	James Mathews (1.0)	Glenelg - 35 pts						
08:35	Sturt Goal	James Richards (1.1)	Glenelg - 29 pts						
13:43	Sturt Goal	Will Coombas (1.0)	Glenelg - 23 pts						
16:01	Glenelg Goal	Luke Reynolds (3.0) receives free kick inside centre square and kicks 70m goal which carries the pack and bounces through for last 20m	Glenelg - 29 pts						
17:58	Sturt Goal	James Mathews (2.0)	Glenelg - 23 pts						
20:22	Glenelg behind	Billy Stretch (0.1) marks from Hugh Stagg kick out of a pack, and kicks point from 45m set shot	Glenelg - 24 pts						
22:45	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (5.1) receives free and kicks goal from 30m after Cam McGree contested mark and forward entry	Glenelg - 30 pts						
24:57	Glenelg Goal	Lachlan Hosie (6.1) marks from Brett Turner daisy-cutter pass and kicks goal from 30m set shot	Glenelg - 36 pts						
29:05	Glenelg behind	Rushed. Long Brett Turner kick to the goal square is spoiled through	Glenelg - 37 pts						
Last Quarter									
03:34	Sturt behind	James Battersby (0.1)	Glenelg - 36 pts						
04:30	Sturt behind	Joshua Hone (0.3)	Glenelg - 35 pts						
06:50	Sturt behind	Rushed	Glenelg - 34 pts						
07:43	Sturt behind	Luke Giacometti (0.1)	Glenelg - 33 pts						
09:46	Sturt Goal	Manguru Frederick (1.0)	Glenelg - 27 pts						
12:45	Glenelg Goal	Matthew Allen (1.1) snaps a goal from 30m after ball is crumbed and handpassed by James Bell	Glenelg - 33 pts						
17:21	Sturt behind	Joshua Hone (0.4)	Glenelg - 32 pts						
18:17	Sturt behind	Joshua Hone (0.5)	Glenelg - 31 pts						
20:34	Sturt Goal	Casey Voss (1.0)	Glenelg - 25 pts						
24:01	Sturt behind	Rushed	Glenelg - 24 pts						
25:45	Sturt behind	Tom Lewis (0.1)	Glenelg - 23 pts						
28:16	Glenelg behind	Luke Reynolds (3.1) marks a hurried Matthew Snook kick and kicks a point from 50m set shot	Glenelg - 24 pts						

Grand Final Statistics from sanfl.com.au

GLENELG														STURT													
Player	D	G.B	K	HB	M	T	HO	CL	I50	FF	FA	Rate	Player	D	G.B	K	HB	M	T	HO	CL	FF	FA				
#8 Corey Lyons	28	1.0	23	5	3	6	0	8	7	3	1	118	James Battersby	24	0.1	10	14	0	9	0	11	4	0				
#3 Matthew Snook	26	0.0	8	18	3	15	0	6	2	1	2	124	Jared Dakin	24	0.0	11	13	5	9	0	8	0	0				
#27 Brett Turner	20	0.0	14	6	0	6	0	6	5	0	1	75	Tom Lewis	21	0.1	11	10	5	18	0	3	0	1				
#9 Darcy Bailey	19	0.0	15	4	1	3	0	2	1	1	0	69	Casey Voss	18	1.0	15	3	6	1	0	0	1	0				
#11 James Bell	19	1.0	13	6	6	5	0	0	4	2	1	94	Joel Thiele	16	0.0	7	9	2	9	0	3	1	2				
#4 Cole Gerloff	18	1.0	15	3	4	4	0	3	4	0	2	79	Steven Slimming	14	0.0	10	4	5	7	0	0	0	2				
#22 Matthew Allen	15	1.1	9	6	6	2	0	0	2	0	1	69	Henry Carey	13	0.0	10	3	5	4	0	2	1	3				
#5 Max Proud	15	0.0	13	2	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	69	Will Coombas	12	1.0	10	2	4	0	0	0	1	1				
#2 Jonty Scharenberg	15	0.0	11	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	65	Manguru Frederick	11	1.0	5	6	3	7	0	1	0	0				
#18 Billy Stretch	15	0.1	8	7	4	2	0	1	4	1	1	57	Connor McFadyen	11	0.2	9	2	2	3	2	2	2	0				
#23 Riley Holder	14	0.0	5	9	1	1	11	6	1	2	0	53	Joshua Hone	10	0.5	9	1	3	3	0	1	2	0				
#10 Luke Partington	13	0.0	5	8	3	6	0	2	3	0	0	64	James Mathews	10	2.0	5	5	2	5	0	0	0	1				
#20 Lachlan Hosie	12	6.1	10	2	4	0	0	0	2	4	2	81	Luke Giacometti	9	0.1	6	3	2	6	0	3	1	1				
#39 Archie Lovelock	12	0.1	7	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	43	Josh Shute	9	0.0	7	2	0	6	0	0	0	0				
#6 Hugh Stagg	12	0.0	9	3	3	5	0	1	6	0	0	62	Lachlan Burrows	8	1.0	4	4	2	2	10	0	0	4				
#14 Brad McCarthy	11	0.0	5	6	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	37	Guy Page	8	0.0	5	3	1	5	0	0	0	0				
#32 Toby Pink	10	0.0	6	4	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	45	Rory Illman	7	0.0	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	2				
#12 Brodie Newman	9	0.0	7	2	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	50	James Richards	7	1.1	4	3	2	2	0	0	2	0				
#1 Liam McBean	8	0.1	6	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	43	Daniel Fahey-Sparks	5	0.0	4	1	2	4	38	0	1	0				
#19 Cameron McGree	8	0.0	5	3	2	2	22	2	2	1	2	52	Oliver Grivell	5	1.1	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0				
#7 Luke Reynolds	8	3.0	8	0	5	3	0	0	2	1	2	64	Charlie Fryer	4	0.0	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	2				
#16 Alex Martini	4	0.0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	15	Luke Edmonds	2	0.0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0				

Proud day the best farewell

Andrew Capel

A flag and out: Max Proud could not have dreamt of a better finish to his stellar career than hoisting the SANFL's Thomas Seymour Hill premiership trophy aloft at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Now he's done. The dual Glenelg premiership defender and now premiership captain announced his retirement after leading the Tigers to their sixth premiership when they beat Sturt in a grand final for the first time, by 24 points.

"It's a pretty special way to go out, I don't think I could have scripted it any better," said Proud as the Glenelg players continued their flag party with Mad Monday dress-up celebrations.

"It's been an amazing journey, having gone through

a lot of tough times and then some success and then to finish with a premiership, as a premiership captain, I couldn't have wished for it to end in a better way."

Proud, 31, said he had been thinking about retirement for "a couple of years" and told his teammates last Friday night - two days before the grand final - he would pull the pin if his team could "get the job done" against the Double Blues. "I just thought I would be really content with that," he said.

"We didn't need any extra motivation but it was quite nice to be able to tell the boys so they all knew, it made it really special out there.

"I had goosebumps at the end."

Proud, who played 170 games in an injury-riddled career after debuting in 2012,

said if Glenelg had lost the grand final he might have had second thoughts about retirement.

"There might have been a bit of unfinished business there," he said.

"But for it to pan out the way it has, I'm very content with how my career has finished."

Proud, who also played in the Tigers' drought-breaking 2019 premiership side, had contemplated retirement six years ago, at just 25, after a shocking head injury sustained against Norwood which saw him have four metal plates and a bunch of screws inserted into the right side of his face.

"To go from where I was six years ago to now is amazing," said Proud, who will fly to Italy on Tuesday night to travel around Europe with partner Alice.



48 SPORT

The Advertiser | Wednesday September 27, 2023

MY TWO CENTS



with **Andrew Capel**

TOBY'S TICKLED PINK AT TIGERS' FLAG WIN

He is the SANFL's silent assassin. And after adding a premiership medal to his impressive 2023 CV, Glenelg quiet achiever Toby Pink might just have landed himself a second AFL contract.

First-year Tigers premiership coach Darren Reeves has long hailed his full back as the best key defender in the SANFL and it appears AFL clubs have taken notice.

Cast adrift by Sydney four years ago, 25-year-old Pink is back on the radar of AFL clubs, with several showing keen interest in the powerful, 194cm redhead.

Adelaide, which needs key defensive reinforcements given that Nick Murray and Tom Doedee, who could depart via free agency, will be sidelined for a chunk of next season following knee reconstructions, is understood to be one of the clubs tracking him.

After keeping Sturt dangerman Connor McFadyen - the Double Blues' chief attacking threat in the finals - goalless in Sunday's grand final at Adelaide Oval, Pink's star continues to rise.

"I think he is the best key defender in the competition and I've felt that from day one, since I walked into the footy club this year," Reeves said.

"He has just been

outstanding and has had an incredible year. There is some interest in him, which is great for him.

"I think he is ready-made to play AFL footy right now. Every single week he has got the job done for us.

"Toby's a quiet, unassuming lad but he's a competitive beast who has had an outstanding season.

"He plays on the best (opposition) forward week in, week out, and his ability to be able to win those battles and also win the ball and be really efficient with it has been terrific."

Best remembered for kicking the most famous behind in SANFL under-18s history when his after-the-siren, 60m long bomb won Glenelg the 2016 under-age grand final against North Adelaide, Pink spent three years on the Swans list after being selected in that year's rookie draft.

But he did not play an AFL game and was delisted at the end of 2019.

After a Covid-wreaked year in 2020, Pink returned to the Tigers in 2021, where he was used primarily as a forward and pinch-hitting ruckman under then coach Brett Hand.

This season, seven years after his matchwinning goal miraculously bounced past 11 Roosters players in the southern goalsquare at

Adelaide Oval to secure Glenelg an amazing one-point grand final triumph, Pink, whose goal went viral, has made his mark at league level.

He played all 20 games, including both finals, for the Tigers this year, was named as full back in The Advertiser SANFL Team of the Year and rarely had his colours lowered in one-on-one contests while averaging 11 disposals and five marks.

"It would be a dream to get back onto an AFL list but I just have to take things as they come because there are no guarantees," Pink said as the Tigers celebrated their sixth flag after beating Sturt by 24 points in the grand final.

"I've had some nibbles but now that the season is over there might be a bit more interest. It's a bit of a waiting game for me."

Pink attributed his stunning improvement this season to being given a defined role after "being thrown around a fair bit in the past couple of years" under Hand.

"I've enjoyed being able to settle down back this season," he said.

"For a couple of years there I was being used as a swingman up forward, in the ruck and down back, and I've loved being given that permanent challenge of taking the opposition key forward out of the game and helping my teammates get the win.



Glenelg key defender Toby Pink the SANFL premiership cup celebrates the Tigers' 2023 grand final win at the Morphett Arms Hotel and (inset) marking strongly in defence against Adelaide. Picture: Matt Loxton

"Reeva (Reeves) tells me every Monday who I'm going to get the following week, so it allows me to prepare well and do my homework on them.

"I really enjoy that challenge and have the competitive mindset to beat my player because I hate losing."

Pink is a no-frills type player who is happy to do his job each week without any fanfare.

"I like floating under the radar," he said.

"That's me, I still get the job done. I'm probably not the loudest (player) out there but

this is who I am and how I roll."

Born in Millicent, part of Glenelg's south-east recruiting zone, Pink said he is a more mature player now than the one who left Adelaide for Sydney seven years ago.

"I'm a better player now and the goal is to get back into the system and play footy for a living, whether that comes soon or takes another year or two," he said.

"I just take things as they go but hopefully things do go my way."

Wheel turns for Brett with grand redemption

Andrew Capel

Glenelg premiership star Brett Turner has revealed he battled a fractured foot all season and a 4cm abdominal muscle tear during the finals to produce one of football's great redemption stories.

Mercilessly cut from the AFL by Adelaide after just five months and no games on its list last year, Turner returned to the Tigers and played through duress for much of the season after hurting his left foot in round 2 against Port Adelaide.

On Sunday, he won his first SANFL league premiership, shining in the midfield as Glenelg beat Sturt by 24 points to claim its sixth flag.

"I have a little nick in the side of my foot, so I have been managing it all year, basically training just once a week and then playing on Saturdays," Turner said as the Tigers' black and gold colours were unveiled on top of the Hoffmann Kiln at the Brickworks Marketplace on Tuesday.

"Thinking about it now I probably should have gone into a moon boot for a while because it never really got any better. I jabbed it on the weekend for the first time to get through the grand final and now that the season's over I'll see a specialist again to see what can be done."

Turner missed two games with the injury before return-

ing against South Adelaide in Round 5.

He conceded working as a labourer for a mate's concrete business after losing his AFL contract - he was selected by the Crows in last season's mid-season rookie draft - didn't help with his recovery.

The explosive onballer, 26, suffered a second injury setback at training last month when he pushed off a teammate in a tackle and felt a sharp pain through his abdominal muscles.

The injury forced him to miss the Round 18 clash against the Panthers and Turner said he would have been "touch and go" for Glenelg's first final if the minor premier hadn't had

the week's break.

Turner was one of the Tigers' best players in the grand final. He paid tribute to first-year Tigers coach Darren Reeves, describing him as the best coach he had played for.

Turner revealed Reeves had written touching, personal letters to each grand final player and handed them out at a team meeting on Friday night - two days before the big dance.

"That's him as a coach and I told him on Sunday night that I'd never worked for a coach like him, the way he thinks and the relationships he builds with people," Turner said.



Glenelg player Brett Turner and coach Darren Reeves at the Hoffmann Kiln celebrations. Picture: Roy VanDerVegt



Sturt's dynamic duo packs one-two punch for final assault

Andrew Capel

They are Sturt's dynamic duo. Two midfield stars who are the heartbeat of the Double



Star Sturt on-ballers Tom Lewis and James Battersby at Adelaide Oval. Picture: Matt Loxton

Blues' engine room and arguably the best one-two on-ball punch in the SANFL.

It's a case of if one doesn't get you the other one will. Captain James Battersby and his midfield sidekick Tom Lewis have enjoyed standout seasons – finishing third and fourth in the Magarey Medal – and loom large in Sunday's grand final against Glenelg.

"I think it's more about Tom really," Battersby said of their on-field relationship. "I just take a back seat to him. He just handballs to me and I kick it but we have a good thing going."

That good thing saw Battersby, a dual Sturt premiership player, poll 23 votes in this year's Medal count, four behind winner Harry Grant from Central District. Lewis polled 21 votes and might have pipped Grant had he not missed three games with an ankle injury.

"Everyone loves Tommy," Battersby said. "He's great to play with because you know he is going to give 100 per cent every time and I don't think too many opposition players like playing against him because he's so bloody strong. He probably inspires me, motivates me, because there's probably not a harder-working player in the SANFL than Tom Lewis."

"He's come on in leaps and bounds and just leads by example with his bullish ways. Tommy's had to overcome some adversity in his career (with injuries) but he's putting it all together now and has been awesome to watch."

"We complement each other really well and hopefully we can do it again on Sunday."

Lewis, 23, underwent a knee reconstruction in 2019 after being injured in a practice match and missed the entire season. Last year, he suffered a

ruptured spleen after being hurt in a Mother's Day clash against Central District at Unley, playing out the game before bleeding internally and falling seriously ill. He said things became so serious if he had waited longer for medical treatment he might have died.

Lewis returned to the field 90 days after his shocking injury and has this year produced a career-best season, averaging 24 disposals, 12 tackles and seven clearances.

Best-afield in the Blues' preliminary final win against the Crows, the 178cm ball of muscle had 24 disposals, laid a game-high 14 tackles and kicked an important goal after the half-time siren.

Battersby is a ball magnet who rarely plays a bad game. His consistency and durability is illustrated in his outstanding Magarey Medal record, having finished third three times. The

27-year-old has averaged 26 disposals, seven clearances and six tackles this season.

"He's such a great leader on and off the field and someone I really look up to," Lewis said of his skipper, who spent a year on Adelaide's rookie list in 2014 but did not play an AFL game. "While I'm intense and work myself up, he's laid-back and sometimes I wish I could be as relaxed going into games as he is."

"His consistency for so long is incredible, despite the fact he's battled a sore knee for a couple of years. He has the knack of being in the right place at the right time and is always in front of me ready for a handball."

The pair's influence at Sturt has taken on greater importance in the finals, with long-kicking star Patrick Wilson ruled out of major round action with a bad knee injury.



Glenelg's Archie Lovelock, Max Proud and Jonty Scharenberg will bring a family connection to the SANFL grand final and; (inset) Proud runs onto Glenelg Oval watched by a young Lovelock. Main picture: Naomi Jellicoe

EYE OF THE TIGERS

Andrew Capel

Glenelg captain Max Proud describes it as a "pinch yourself moment".

He remembers a "three-foot tall" Archie Lovelock following him around in a Tigers guernsey when he started his SANFL career. Now the 31-year-old is preparing to run out alongside his 18-year-old cousin and godson on the biggest SANFL stage of all – Sunday's league grand final against Sturt at Adelaide Oval.

"It's special, a real pinch yourself moment," said Proud, who is chasing his second flag after being a member of the Tigers side that snapped a 33-year drought by beating Port Adelaide in the 2019 grand final. "There are plenty of photos of Archie running around in a Glenelg guernsey when he was three-foot tall and I was first playing for the club and now we are going to play in a grand final together so, yeah, it's pretty crazy. We think of Glenelg as a real family and community club, so this is a nice little moment."

2023 SANFL GRAND FINAL GLENELG v STURT ADELAIDE OVAL, SUNDAY, 2.30PM			
Stagg 6, McBean 1, Hosie 20	F	Hone 5, McFadyen 6, Burrows 31	
Reynolds 7, Allen 22, Bell 11	HF	Thiele 4, Grivell 30, Mathews 7	
Partington 10, Snook 3, Stretch 18	C	Slimming 39, Lewis 2, Frederick 1	
Proud 5, Pink 32, Scharenberg 2	HB	Carey 3, Coombas 22, Voss 34	
Martini 16, Newman 12, McCarthy 14	B	Illman 32, Edmonds 15, Fryer 27	
McGree 19, Turner 27, Gerloff 4	R	Fahey-Sparks 18, Battersby 23, Dakin 16	
(from) Lyons 8, Holder 23, Searle 13,		(from) Richards 44, Shute 11, Walter 40,	
Lovelock 39, Bailey 9, Deep 41, McLeod	Int	Breuer 9, Page 25, Giacometti 36,	
		Wingard 33	
	In	Breuer, Page, Giacometti	
Searle, McLeod, Deep	Out		

The family ties extend beyond Proud and Lovelock.

Tigers defender Jonty Scharenberg, who will play his 100th game in the grand final, has been dating Lovelock's sister, Gracie, for four years.

"Our family has a fair bit of history with Glenelg Football Club," Proud said. "My grandpa Bob Brinkworth is a life member, there are uncles and cousins who have played here and now I get to play alongside my youngest cousin Archie."

"I am the oldest male cousin and Archie is the youngest,

there is 13 years between us. Playing with him is something I find really special, along with Jonty, who I have played alongside for his whole career really. When you get towards the end of your career and you get these type of moments, it's something I – and the family – will look back on with great fondness."

Key defender Proud, who made his league debut in 2012, has played 168 games for the Tigers after a tough, injury-riddled start to his career.

Six years ago, at just 25, he contemplated early retirement

after he was recovering in Wakefield Hospital after having four metal plates and a bunch of screws inserted in the right side of his face following a freak injury against Norwood that saw his face "cave in".

"It was a pretty serious injury and while I was lying in hospital I thought, 'that's it for me, I'm done with footy', because I was sick of all the injuries," he recalled before having second thoughts and becoming one of Glenelg's great backmen and leaders.

Lovelock, who won the Alan Stewart Medal as best-afield in last year's SANFL under-18 grand final win against North Adelaide, made his league debut in Round 1 against Sturt.

He has played eight matches and kicked his first goal in the second semi-final win against Adelaide.

Like Proud, Scharenberg, 25, was a member of the Tigers' 2019 flag team but he fell out of favour under previous coach Brett Hand and played only six league games in 2021 and 2022.

He won the Bob Lee Medal as best-afield in the 2021 reserves grand final and then

watched his clubmates lose the league grand final to the Eagles. He has played all 19 league games for Glenelg this season.

"Jonty's worked incredibly hard to get to the 100-game milestone and what better way to bring it up than in a grand final," Proud said.

Scharenberg, who made his league debut as a 16-year-old in 2015, had contemplated leaving the Tigers before Darren Reeves was appointed coach at the end of last year.

"I had a few injuries in the past two years and then sort of fell out of favour with the coach," he said. "It was a pretty challenging two years but I'm really proud now to be playing my 100th game for Glenelg."

Adding to the household football flavour, Archie and Gracie's mum is SANFL media and communications manager Paula Brinkworth. One of her sisters, Jenny, is married to Proud's dad, Tony, who played league football for West Adelaide. Bob Brinkworth played for the Roosters. Max's sister, Maddy, a NSW Swifts star, has represented Australia at netball.

MY TWO CENTS



with Andrew Capel

THE LONG AND SHORT OF RIVALRY'S FINAL JOURNEYS



A three-year rebuild versus a nine-month renovation project. That is the contrasting styles of this year's SANFL grand final coaches, Sturt's Martin Mattner and Glenelg's Darren Reeves.

When Double Blues and Sydney premiership player Mattner returned to Unley for his second stint as coach at the end of 2020, the club had endured a couple of average seasons, finishing fifth and sixth under Nathan Grima.

Mattner, who had left his role as an AFL assistant coach with Adelaide midway through 2020, after being a victim of Covid-19 financial cuts, was charged with turning the proud club into a powerhouse again.

In his first coaching sojourn at Sturt, he famously led it to premierships in his first two years in charge, in 2016 and 2017, and fourth in 2018, before his standout coaching CV saw him lured to the AFL.

Mattner, who studied carpentry while he was playing, went "back on the tools", working for a mate's company, Response Carpentry Constructions, in his five months out of the game, before being handed the keys to the Double Blues machine for the second time. He decided to build the squad from the ground up again, after a host

of his premiership players had departed.

"Three years ago, when I came back, we hadn't been playing finals and stuff, and I was chatting to 'Batts' and 'Pagey' (dual premiership players James Battersby and Guy Page) and a couple of other guys who had been around for a while, and they wanted to win another premiership before retiring," Mattner said.

"I said, 'let's do it', but the way to go about it was to rebuild our list, with our junior players, and go down the path of building a group of players who were going to be our next premiership players.

"They included players like (Josh) Shute, (Casey) Voss, (Will) Coombas, (Lachlan) Burrows, (Oliver) Grivell, (Tom) Lewis, just give them games of footy and get experience into them.

"That's paying dividends now and it will into the future." Sturt finished sixth in Mattner's return year in 2021, fifth last year and second at the end of this year's minor round.

It lost the qualifying final to Adelaide after leading by 35 points in the second quarter, but rebounded strongly to beat Central District in the first semi-final, then turned the tables on the Crows in the preliminary final to earn a grand final spot for the first time since its 2017 premiership.

Remarkably, all four of the

Double Blues' male teams – league, reserves, under-18s and under-16s – have made grand finals this year, although their two under-age sides lost their premiership deciders on Sunday.

"That says a lot about where the club is at," Mattner said.

"Our under-16s and 18s didn't get the chocolates, but in terms of our junior programs and building our club, that's what we want, we want our juniors developing and coming through.

"We saw that with our league team in the preliminary final, a lot of the kids that have come through our system played – (Luke) Edmonds, (Ned) Walter, (Charlie) Fryer, (Rory) Illman – they've all played juniors here and it shows we are building for success long term.

"The older guys will always be there, playing well, but on the weekend some of our younger players really stood up – Walter played an amazing game, Fryer, Coombas, Lewis, that whole group.

"They have all come through our junior program." On Sunday, Sturt is expected to field only five premiership players – captain Battersby, Page and Josh Hone, who won flags in 2016 and 2017, and Henry Carey (2016) and Steven Slimming (2017).

While Mattner played the long game in rebuilding the

Blues, Reeves has – in tough circumstances – masterfully overseen a quick fix.

The man with a cricket background wasn't appointed Glenelg coach until late December last year, after the club parted ways with Brett Hand over irreconcilable differences.

Reeves, who was an assistant to North Adelaide coach Jacob Surjan when the Roosters made the grand final last year, did not see the need (or have time) to rebuild the list, after the Tigers had played in the 2021 grand final, but he flipped the game plan on its head.

"First and foremost, we needed to improve defensively," he said.

"Early in the year, we had a focus on how we wanted to defend the ground and I wasn't sure that it was going to happen as quickly as it did.

"But by around round 6 or 7, we were able to get that on track and it definitely made a difference to how we played in offence as well."

The numbers are eye-popping.

Last year, Glenelg, which finished fourth, ranked No.3 in

scores for (average 74 points) but equal-sixth in scores against (70).

This year, led by its trio of star goalkickers Lachie Hosie, Liam McBean and Luke Reynolds, it was second in scoring (84.6) behind Adelaide and skyrocketed to No.1 defensively, conceding an average of only 58.2 points.

"Everyone has really bought in and been really strong from a defensive standpoint," Reeves said.

Asked whether he had to pinch himself to comprehend his journey with the Tigers this year, after once being a wannabe Test cricket wicketkeeper who spent a year at the Australian Cricket Academy in Adelaide in 1997, Reeves, a New South Welshman, said: "Every day".

"But full credit must go to the players," he said.

"Along with the assistant coaches, we came in with a plan of what we wanted to do and the players have taken ownership and driven it every day."

Mattner: Sturt can turn tables

Andrew Capel

It was the King's Birthday flogging that went a long way towards securing Glenelg the minor premiership but Sturt is adamant it will have no bearing on Sunday's SANFL grand final.

Three months after the Tigers tore the Double Blues apart at the Bay, kicking 23 goals and winning by 105 points in the season's most lopsided result, the two clubs will lock horns in a grand final for the first time since 1974.

"That (game) was just a one-off, a blip on the radar, we moved on and we are looking forward to this weekend," dual Sturt premiership coach Martin Mattner said.

"We didn't have that type of

performance again for the rest of the year, so I put it down to Glenelg being very good and us not being great at all that day.

"But it was just a one-off because I haven't seen that trend again throughout the year."

Mattner, who led Sturt to premierships in 2016 and 2017 before joining the Crows as an AFL assistant coach in 2019 and returning to Unley at the end of 2020, is confident his side can turn the tables on the Tigers when it counts most.

Glenelg finished top at the end of the minor round with a 15-3 win-loss record and a whopping percentage of 59.2.

The Double Blues were second with a 14-4 record and percentage of 51.9 after their percentage took a massive hit



Glenelg's James Bell goals. Picture: David Marliuz/SANFL

in their round 9 thumping, where star midfielder Tom Lewis was sidelined with an ankle injury.

The Bays blew that game wide open in the first half, kicking 14 goals to three.

"We've won 16 games (including two finals) this year, have had a few ups and downs

Massive loss was a one off

with some injuries and players out through suspension, but I think we have shown in the past six-to-eight weeks that we are up there with Glenelg in being the best two teams in the competition," Mattner said.

"We have worked really hard for the opportunity we have been given this weekend and we're really looking forward to it."

Tigers coach Darren Reeves also played down the 16-goal win, which propelled Glenelg to flag favouritism, which came after Sturt had won the Round 1 encounter between the sides at Unley by 31 points.

"It doesn't have a lot of relevance this week," he said.

"We were very good that day

but it was 15 weeks ago, 12 games ago, so it is definitely not something we will talk about as a group. It will be a completely different scenario on Sunday."

Adelaide coach Michael Godden noted after his side's 17-point preliminary final loss to the Double Blues that they have an ability to "choke" the opposition.

Reeves said his side would be prepared for anything Sturt can throw at it but noted, "it's a grand final so you can expect the unexpected".

"We have a method that we try to play and we'll stick to that and hopefully that's good enough to get the result," he said.

The day Football Park came alive – and Sturt gave Glenelg a case of the Blues

A RIVALRY REIGNITED

Andrew Capel



It was the toss of a coin that might have decided a SANFL grand final.

When Glenelg captain Peter Marker stood in the middle of Football Park alongside Sturt counterpart Paul Bagshaw prior to the start of the 1974 grand final - the first at the West Lakes venue - he knew just how important winning the toss would be.

"It was blowing a gale and given the weather forecast, we felt that the toss was pretty much going to decide the game," Marker recalled this week, 49 years after the Tigers and Double Blues last met in a grand final.

"That was the reality of the situation. Neil (legendary Glenelg coach Neil Kerley) spoke to me before the game and said he had been given info from the Bureau (of Meteorology) that it was probably going to rain in the second quarter and that the wind would probably die out late in the game.

"That's exactly the way it played out and unfortunately we were on the wrong end of it.

"The reality is that the footy gods and weather conspired against us at the wrong time and virtually reduced the result to a flip of a coin."

After gleefully winning the toss in front of a bumper crowd of 58,042 and kicking with the wind, minor premier and flag favourite Sturt kicked 6.5 to 0.1 in the opening quarter to lead by 40 points.

Glenelg kicked two early goals in the second term before the rain came and went into the long break trailing by 12 points. It then produced what has been described as one of the great defensive quarters in SANFL history, kicking 2.1 while holding the Double Blues to 0.6, to trail by only five points at the last change.

But the Tigers, having had to work so hard into the wind and battling injuries, were physically spent - in Marker's words "we were stuffed" - and, with the wind dropping, they were overrun in the final quarter, with Sturt kicking 3.4 to 2.0 to win by 15 points, 9.16 (70) to 8.7 (55).

As the two clubs prepare to lock horns in a grand final again on Sunday, The Advertiser brought together three members from each of the '74 grand final teams - Sturt's Robbert Klomp, Phil "Sandy" Nelson and Michael Graham and Glenelg's Peter Carey, Graham Cornes and Neville Caldwell - to reminisce about that fateful day (there was plenty of friendly banter), discuss the Glenelg-Sturt rivalry and get their thoughts on this year's premiership decider.

Andrew Capel: What are your memories of the 1974 grand final?

Sandy Nelson: It being very windy. The wind was so strong that you rarely played in conditions like it and it upset everything, your kicking, marking and your tactics for the whole game. What hit me when we lobbed at the ground for what was the first grand final at Football Park, which at that stage didn't have a lot of grandstand protection, was the north wind that was howling down to the southern end. It was incredibly strong and it howled all day.

Peter Carey: Hang on a minute, not all day. The wind dropped right away in the last quarter, it died. I'm not saying it changed the result but it certainly didn't help us. And in the second quarter when we had the wind, it rained after about 10 minutes, which made it tough to



SANFL greats and 1974 SANFL combatants Neville Caldwell, Michael Graham, Robbert Klomp, Peter Carey, Phil 'Sandy' Nelson and Graham Cornes reminisce ahead of Sunday's grand final between the same clubs; (below) Robert Oatey holds the premiership cup aloft, flanked by teammates Brenton Adcock and Nelson; (top right) Sturt coach Jack Oatey and Glenelg coach Neil Kerley shake hands; (bottom right) Oatey jumps out of his coach's box during the tense '74 decider. Main picture: Matt Loxton

score.

Michael Graham: My biggest memory of the game was just how windy it was because I hated playing in windy conditions. And then I remember that last quarter. We were in trouble and Jack (coach Jack Oatey) just said 'attack, attack' and that's exactly what we did.

Robbert Klomp: We stopped running the ball in the third quarter, relying on the wind too much and Glenelg stacked the backline and got back into the game.

Graham Cornes: It wasn't a pleasant day weather-wise, it was blowing a screaming gale, and the rain didn't help us in the second quarter and then the wind died when we needed it in the last.

SN: Graham, you also made the mistake of mouthing off at three-quarter time. Paul Bagshaw came into our huddle saying 'Corney reckons he's got us'.
GC: So you're blaming me. I reckon he's made that up but we should have had you. But you had some stars in that last quarter. Micky Nunan played really well and Robbie Barton came off the bench and did to us what (Port Adelaide's) Adrian Settre did in the 1990 grand final, igniting the team.

AC: How big was rover Barton's influence in that last term?

GC: One of the intriguing things of that game is that Robbie Barton is almost its most famous contributor. The Sturt team was full of stars, with (Rick) Davies, Bagshaw, Graham and Klomp but Barton was probably the hero.

SN: Yep, it was a bit like Teddy Hopkins for Carlton in the 1970 grand final.

RK: Barton was terrific in that last quarter but to me, the turning point was when (full forward) Ken Whelan took a mark about 40m from goal. I placed myself 20m around from the left side of the goal because when he didn't get hold of his screw punts that's where they used to fall. But he hit it perfectly and absolutely drilled it through the middle. The adrenaline rush you get from something like that is huge and I knew exactly how the Glenelg players would have been feeling at that time, it would have been demoralising for them.

SN: Jack's three-quarter time speech was great too. When we sat down on the mat he made it very clear that we weren't going to adopt the tactics that 'Kerls' did in the third quarter (with numbers behind the ball) and that it would be attack, attack, attack. He told us to control the footy and handball at every opportunity and that's what we did. It worked. We played a great last quarter, aided by Barton coming on and running everywhere with his fresh legs. And that Whelan goal was freakish because his screw punts were a 50-50

proposition at best.

MG: Micky Nunan took over that last quarter as well. He was everywhere.

AC: If the coin toss had gone the other way would the result have been different?

SN: If the Bays had kicked eight goals in the second quarter it might have been different.

PC: We started that quarter well but then it rained heavily, so I'm not sure where the eight goals were going to come from. But, yes, I'd like to know what would have happened if we'd won the toss.

SN: Well, you come from the Bay and it rains a lot down there.

RK: The Bays always regarded themselves as a skilful side and aren't skilful sides supposed to come to the fore in the wet?

1974 SANFL GRAND FINAL	
6.5	0.1
6.6	4.6
6.12	6.7
9.16	8.7
70	55
BEST – Sturt: Davies, Nunan, Bagshaw, Wild, Adcock, Klomp, Murphy.	
Glenelg: Marker, Tardif, MacFarlane, W. Phillis, Tregenza, Cornes, Osborn.	
GOALS – Sturt: Graham 2, Klomp 2, Whelan 2, Barton, Davies, Burgan. Glenelg: D. Phillis 3, Caldwell 2, Marriott, Osborn, Cornes.	
CROWD: 58,042 at Football Park	

AC: Glenelg and Sturt played three grand finals against each other in six years in 1969, 1970 and 1974, with the Double Blues winning all three. What are your most vivid memories of that era and how strong the rivalry was between the clubs?

SN: 1969 was a big one. I had (Richmond's) Royce Hart (as an opponent) and he fell over (got knocked out). He tripped over, although I must admit I might have eased him a little bit as the ball was running out of bounds on the eastern wing (of Adelaide Oval). I can't believe it's been 49 years since the two clubs last met in a grand final.

RK: The teams played it hard on the field but there was great respect for each other.

PC: Sturt was one our biggest opponents from the late 1960s all the way through to the mid 1980s. There were three grand finals but there were also a lot of other great finals battles.

AC: Who was the opposition player you most feared?

GC: The big Sturt stars were Bagshaw, Nelson, Davies, John Tilbrook, Bob Shearman and Brenton Adcock.

PC: Davies was the one I loved playing against. He was the best ruckman in the competition, so I looked forward to those battles. We had some pretty good clashes, although he would argue that he thrashed me a few times. I might argue that I occasionally broke even.
MG: 'Super' Carey was a great ruckman - and a nice guy too. Kymmy and Hodgeman was always a nuisance and 'Colbs' (Brian Colbey). I used to say to everyone that he was the best bloke I ever stood because he was a copper (policeman) and tried to lock me up on the

2023 SANFL GRAND FINAL
GLENELG v STURT
ADELAIDE OVAL, SUNDAY, 2.30PM

Stagg 6, McBean 1, Hosie 20	F	Hone 5, McFadyen 6, Burrows 31
Reynolds 7, Allen 22, Bell 11	HF	Thiele 4, Grivell 30, Mathews 7
Partington 10, Snook 3, Stretch 18	C	Slimming 39, Lewis 2, Frederick 1
Proud 5, Pink 32, Scharenberg 2	HB	Carey 3, Coombas 22, Voss 34
Martini 16, Newman 12, McCarthy 14	B	Illman 32, Edmonds 15, Fryer 27
McGree 19, Turner 27, Gerloff 4	R	Fahey-Sparks 18, Battersby 23, Dakin 16
(from) Lyons 8, Holder 23, Searle 13,		(from) Richards 44, Shute 11, Walter 40,
Lovelock 39, Bailey 9, Deep 41, McLeod 29	Int	Breuer 9, Page 25, Giacometti 36,
		Wingard 33
	In	Breuer, Page, Giacometti
	Out	



field all the time. He was a great player who stuck to me like a leech.

SN: Fred (Phillis) was a terrific full forward who had strong hands and was hard to beat while Peter Marker was always very busy in the middle of the ground, he was a really strong player.

AC: If you could pick a former teammate to play for your club on Sunday, who would it be?

SN: I'd put Bob Shearman right in the guts. He was tough, could kick the ball a mile and was a great, natural-born leader. He was probably the greatest recruit Jack ever got for us.

RK: Rick Davies. He not only had a great influence at the centre bounces, where he was so strong and had a great vertical leap, but also the ability to mark all around the ground - and he was a pretty handy kick.

GC: (Stephen) Kernahan, Carey and Hodgeman would be the ones I'd want playing for us this week.

MG: Thank god 'Kernas' isn't playing. I'd love to have 'Wheels' (Whelan) playing

at full forward for Sturt. He was a freak.

NEVILLE CALDWELL: It would be 'Supes' (Carey) or Marker for me. 'Super' always put the ball down a teammate's throat while Marker was always winning the ball out of the middle.

AC: Why does your club win on Sunday?

RK: Sturt's ability to win the ball in the midfield, lock down the opposition and then break the game open at critical times has been the key to its success.

GC: Martin Mattner (Sturt coach) has an ability to get his team in a great defensive mode but Glenelg has been the best side all year and has a good midfield, strong defence and potent forward line.

PC: Marty Mattner happens to be my nephew and we have quite a few discussions about footy. It will be fascinating to see who wins the choke (Sturt) versus attack (Glenelg) game. Obviously I'm a Glenelg man but I hope the attacking side wins because that's the type of footy I like watching.



Kym Hodgeman dives on the ball, watched by Rob Tardif, Mick Nunan, Greg Wild, Robert Oatey and Jim Rawson.

Graham Cornes



AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

REASON TO FEEL NERVOUS

Glenelg starts as grand final favourite but memories of tackling Sturt aren't happy ones

Regardless of what might have been achieved in a football journey there are always pangs of regret.

Even the greatest of football achievers have moments when they think they should have done it better, so what hope do we mere mortals have?

Today hits home. Glenelg is playing Sturt in the SANFL grand final. The season reaches its climax the way we all hoped it would with two traditional SANFL teams facing off. That pang? We – my Glenelg team-mates and I – could never beat Sturt in a grand final.

We never beat Port either but strangely, never lost to them in a preliminary final. In fact the emotion immediately after beating Port in the 1970 preliminary final, when the Magpies had finished the minor round on top of the ladder and Glenelg had just scraped into the final four by 0.83 of a per cent rivalled that of a grand final victory.

We sent Port out in straight sets after they had been beaten by Sturt in the second semi-final. Sound familiar?

I'd been home from Vietnam barely three weeks, scarcely able to believe I was playing for Glenelg on Adelaide Oval. But preliminary final celebrations can be toxic and it takes just seven days to realise there is no second prize. So it was in the 1970 grand final.

It had rained all Friday night and Adelaide Oval was ankle deep in sodden turf and mud. It was before drop-in pitches had been designed and the centre square was a quagmire. You would think those conditions would favour the less skilful team but Jack Oatey's unshakeable belief in his team's superior skill was justified.

The more skilful team will prevail regardless of the conditions. Of course Paul Bagshaw, the most skilful of all, was best-on-ground but in the most atrocious conditions Malcolm Greenslade kicked six goals. It was their fifth premiership in a row.

We had played off in the previous year's grand final. In 1969 Glenelg had been the dominant team of the season, winning 17 games and finishing two games clear on top of the ladder. Sturt was second but on the same points as West Adelaide,

which surprisingly, with West Torrens, made the final four. The other surprise was that Port didn't make the finals.

The 1969 finals series is renowned for West Adelaide and the Eagles playing out a draw in the first semi-final. It was the era before extra-time so the match was replayed the following week which set the finals schedule back a week. Sturt upset Glenelg in the second semi-final but Glenelg eliminated West in the prelim final to make a rare grand final appearance.

The most controversial issue in this game was Glenelg's exploitation of the National Service Act which allowed soldiers who had been drafted to play in different states without needing a clearance. Richmond's Royce Hart, the best centre half-forward in the country, had been drafted, was based at Woodside army barracks and had trained a few times at Glenelg while flying back to Melbourne every week to play for Richmond.

The previous Saturday, he had played in Richmond's VFL premiership team but agreed, for the massive sum of \$2000 (perhaps \$30,000 in today's money), to play for Glenelg in the SANFL grand final seven days later.

It wasn't cheating but it felt like it and several players were uncomfortable with the move. But there is a football god. Sturt kicked the first goal within minutes of the opening bounce and Hart was knocked unconscious early in the game, albeit accidentally when he fell



Superstar Sturt captain Bob Shearman holds the Thomas Seymour Hill premiership trophy after the Double Blues won their fifth successive flag, beating Glenelg in the 1970 grand final.

into the knees of Sturt wingman Trevor Clarke.

The sight of the well-meaning but naive Glenelg trainers dragging Hart's limp body to his feet with his head lolling would horrify today's sports medical teams and he collapsed again when they let him go.

It was Neil Kerley's last game as a playing coach and he roared at Hart: "Get up you weak Victorian ----."

I don't know how but to Hart's credit he eventually did get back up and played well. But it was a rout.

Bagshaw starred and it's almost forgotten now that Greenslade kicked nine goals in a masterful performance at full forward.

It's amazing how some things stick in your memory. The image of John Tilbrook, all muscles and power, bursting through half-forward and launching massive screw punts is indelible.

Then came the coup de grace late

in the game. With absolute impertinence, Sturt captain Bob Shearman broke from the centre and launched a left-foot drop kick which hit a team-mate on the chest. They were hard enough to kick with your natural foot. It was an annihilation and a humiliating lesson in finals football.

We would meet again in 1974 in the first grand final played at the new Football Park at West Lakes. They used to call it Pleurisy Park, such was the bitter weather that plagued the stadium in the early years and on that day there was a howling wind from the north.

Winning the toss was vital. Glenelg captain Peter Marker, a lawyer by profession, ignored coach Kerley's instructions about how to contrive winning the toss, so Sturt subsequently won it.

The Blues kicked six goals with the wind in the first quarter and held Glenelg goalless. Unfortunately after quarter-time the rain came and Glenelg could only manage four goals. Sturt would kick only six behinds with the wind in the third quarter and, at three-quarter-time, coming home with the wind, Glenelg looked a real chance.

But the wind faded and Sturt outplayed us to win by 15 points. Rick Davies starred and Michael Nunan's last quarter was magnificent. Every grand final has an unlikely hero and it was the cameo of Robbie Barton who came off the bench in the last quarter that was most memorable. He only kicked the one goal but he enlivened the Sturt team and contributed immensely to the victory.

It was the right result. Sturt had dominated the season, finishing on top of the ladder with 19 wins, whereas Glenelg had just snuck into the final five – instituted just the year earlier – with 11 wins.

There was an interesting sequel to that game.

Three months later, Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and claimed 71 lives. The city was evacuated but hundreds remained to begin the reparation and the two teams, Glenelg and Sturt, were asked to play an exhibition match as a form of entertainment to lift the spirits of those who had remained.

Seeing the devastation was a sobering experience and when, during the third quarter, the sky blackened and the wind rose it looked like the cyclone was about to return. As in that fateful final several months before, kicking into the wind was extremely difficult. Kerley made a cameo performance off the bench to entertain the fans but I can't remember who won – which probably means Sturt did!

So today, 49 years later, Sturt and Glenelg meet again in the season decider. Glenelg will start favourite but Sturt coach Marty Mattner knows how to prepare his team for these finales.

Glenelg will have to navigate a defensive, pressure-intense morass to give its talented forward line enough winning opportunities.

First-year coach Darren Reeves has done an amazing job and Glenelg has to be the favourite – but we've been there before.

That's what I'm nervous about.



There was plenty of rain as Sturt reigned supreme in the 1970 grand final.