

So near, yet so far for Bloods

West Adelaide's two-point loss to Glenelg on Saturday served as another reminder of the could-have-been season the Bloods are going through.

Despite having enough of the ball, and despite having their chances to snatch a last-minute win, West let it slip away in its 19.9 to 19.11 loss at Glenelg Oval.

Glenelg always seemed to hold the upper hand — but it only just held on against a persistent, determined opponent.

The fact the home side had two dominant forwards proved the difference in the tight finish.

Jim West was superb for Glenelg, playing out of a forward pocket and drifting up the field. His nine telling grabs made him the most dangerous man in the air — and his three goals came in handy.

John Fidge again proved his worth with eight goals from his 10 kicks. At the other end of the field, Chris Palmer had seven kicks for as many goals.

But West was unable to fully utilise his talents and better delivery could have made a world of difference.

West was its own worst enemy with bad kicking to its forwards.

It had to work harder for their goals, but stuck to the task valiantly.

GLENELG	4.1	11.5	15.7	19.11	(125)
WEST	5.3	10.5	14.9	19.9	(123)

BEST - Glenelg: West, Chigwidden, Fidge, Barton, Kretschmer, Thompson. **West:** Fitzsimmons, Palmer, Banfield, Ravasi, McKinnon, Peek.

SCORERS - Glenelg: Fidge 8.2, West 3.2, Barton 3.0, Chigwidden 2.1, Stuart, Bailey 1.1, Kretschmer 1.0, McGuinness 0.2, rushed 0.2. **West:** Palmer 7.0, McNamara 3.1, Fitzsimmons 3.0, Loving 2.1, Banfield 2.0, Andriske 1.1, Mickan 1.0, Kerr, Patterson, Fielke, Godden 0.1, rushed 0.2.

UMPIRES - Craig Doddridge, Richard Williams.

BEST ON GROUND - Jim West (Glenelg). **TOP TEAM PLAYER -** Shane Fitzsimmons (West). **CROWD -** 2293.

Glenelg comfortably won the centre square, especially when Dean Bailey was running riot from centre in the first half, with 18 kicks and six handballs in the first two terms.

West may have been beaten in the square, but it made up for that shortfall with determined efforts elsewhere around the ground.

Shane Fitzsimmons, Peter Banfield and Robin McKinnon picked up plenty of touches and, with Palmer, kept their side in touch for most of the game.

While there was always something happening to keep the interest, apart from the closeness of the scores, the result highlighted concerns for both camps.

West now is a spent force as far as the finals are concerned.

The Bloods are four games plus percentage out of the top five. They have the bye this weekend, leaving just six games to make up the leeway.

But what of Glenelg? More was expected of the Tigers, on their home turf and against a side five rungs below them on the premiership table. Most people expected them to win easily, hence the dismal crowd of 2293 at the Bay.

Glenelg's next mission will be a far sterner test — against Port Adelaide at Alberton Oval.

For Glenelg, coach Mark Williams it will be his first trip back to his old stomping ground, and no doubt he will be more than pleased to score a two-point, or even a one-point, win against the Magpies.

SANFL LADDER

	W	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Port Adelaide	11	2	-	1663	1295	56.22	22
Eagles	9	3	1	1396	1105	55.82	19
Glenelg	8	4	1	1580	1354	53.85	17
Norwood	8	5	-	1455	1254	53.71	16
Central District	7	6	-	1342	1229	52.20	14
South Adelaide	6	7	-	1327	1308	50.36	12
North Adelaide	5	8	-	1042	1323	44.06	10
West Adelaide	3	11	-	1288	1561	45.21	6
Sturt	1	12	-	1069	1732	38.16	2

NORWOOD	5.4	11.6	13.8	20.12	(132)
SOUTH	2.10	8.9	11.11	13.13	(91)

BEST - Norwood: Balme, Burns, James, Smallridge, Pitt, Modra, McIntosh, Patterson. **South:** Stoeckel, Whitford, Groom, Koster, Harris, Harrison.

SCORERS - Norwood: Ducker 5.2, Smallridge 4.0, Patterson 3.2, James, Prime 2.0, Eames, McIntosh 1.1, Smart, Dolan 0.1, rushed 0.3. **South:** Groom 5.1, Aulich 2.1, McIntyre 1.2, Rogers, Harris, Kappler, Battams 1.1, Heath, Harrison 1.0, Page 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES - Norwood: O'Brien (bruised hip), Byrnes (hamstring). **South:** Harrison (hamstring), Webb (hamstring), Dillon (ankle), Page (ankle).

UMPIRES - Michael Abbott, Kevin Chambers.

BEST ON GROUND - Craig Balme. **TOP TEAM PLAYER -** David Stoeckel.

EAGLES	6.1	9.4	12.10	16.13	(109)
CENTRAL	1.0	7.1	8.4	11.9	(75)

BEST - Eagles: Rogers, Schwartz, Spehr, Schache, Nicol, Taylor, Prymke, Neave. **Central:** MacGowan, Louder, Girdham, Tongerie.

SCORERS - Eagles: Taylor 7.2, S. Sziller, Prymke, Nicol 2.0, Rogers, Niemann 1.0, Morphett 0.4, J. Sziller 0.2, Schwartz, McInnenny, Devine 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Central:** Handley 4.0, Tongerie 3.2, Coffee 2.0, MacGowan, Geister 1.0, Girdham 0.2, Stevens, Saywell 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES - EAGLES: Taylo (calf), Niemann (leg), Schwartz (thigh), Morphett (hamstring).

UMPIRES - Laurie Argent, Ron Bettridge.

BEST ON GROUND - Andrew Rogers (Eagles). **TOP TEAM PLAYER -** Phillip Louder (Central).

STURT	0.5	3.9	8.13	12.17	(89)
NORTH	2.4	6.6	8.8	10.10	(70)

BEST - Sturt: Johns, Judd, Richter, Gray, Obst, Wigney, Dent. **North:** Sanders, Phillips, Barratt, Mail, Soderstrom, Saunders.

SCORERS - Sturt: Arnol 3.3, Johns 3.2, Sutherland, Underwood 2.0, Viney 1.1, Salisbury 1.0, Obst, Trimboli 0.2, Sanderson, Richter 0.1, rushed 0.5. **North:** Sanders 3.2, Mancini, Jeffries 2.1, Hart 1.2, Redden 1.1, Wellman 1.0, Krieg, Phillips, Nunan 0.1.

INJURIES - North: McCarthy (ankle).

UMPIRES - David Elliot, Jeff Jeanes.

BEST ON GROUND - Andrew Johns (Sturt). **TOP TEAM PLAYER -** Ben Judd (Sturt). **CROWD -** 3052.

SANFL LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Club	Sat.	Total
M. Tylor	(Port)	-	58
A. Taylor	(Eagles)	7	46
C. Prime	(Norwood)	2	46
G. Coffee	(Central)	2	46
J. Fidge	(Glenelg)	8	39
P. McIntyre	(South)	1	38
D. Woosnam	(West)	0	35
S. Patterson	(Norwood)	3	34

THIS WEEK'S DRAW

Round 16: Saturday — South v Sturt (Richmond), Central v North (Elizabeth), Port v Glenelg (Alberton), Eagles v Norwood (Woodville). **Bye:** West.

RESERVES

South 12.10 (82) d Norwood 10.18 (78); Eagles 24.15 (159) d Central 6.7 (43); Glenelg 19.9 (123) d West 13.12 (90); North 18.9 (117) d Sturt 8.11 (59).

UNDER 19

South 25.14 (164) d Norwood 11.8 (74); Eagles 16.12 (108) d Central 16.8 (104); Glenelg 27.17 (179) d West 8.7 (55); North 14.11 (95) d Sturt 5.10 (40).

UNDER 17

Norwood 16.12 (108) d South 6.4 (40); Eagles 9.12 (66) d Central 9.7 (61); Glenelg 8.6 (54) d West 5.6