Precise West stuns Tigers

Warren Partland

WEST Adelaide's season of turmoil was yesterday cast aside with an emphatic 41-point triumph over Glenelg at Adelaide Oval.

The Bloods were simply outstanding, vindicating the club's brave decisions at the selection table with a performance reminiscent of those which swept it into the 2003 Grand Final.

In contrast the Tigers were pathetic, with an eight-goal last quarter as the heat disappeared out of the game and masked an unsatisfactory display.

"I was not sure what we were going to get today," Bloods coach Shaun Rehn said. The best thing is they shared the ball – they played as a team.

"They saw a player in a West guernsey and gave it first time. I don't know if we have been doing that all year."

The Bloods put the pressure on Glenelg from the outset with a huge dose of enthusiasm and tremendous commitment.

When Charles Slattery snapped a goal just a minute into the contest, it was the ideal start to ignite some confidence.

The Tigers did not match the desperate approach of their opponents, coughing up many mistakes and constantly having the ball taken from them at the stoppages. The West players threw themselves into the fray, ensured numbers at the contest and operated as an efficient unit.

There was no secret in the Bloods' game – just attack the confrontation and put pressure on the Tigers. And when they secured possession they went long and direct, looking for full forward Nicholas Prokopec.

He rarely held the mark but, importantly, he brought the ball to ground to let smaller team-mates pounce.

The Bloods secured some crucial ball out of the centre with the likes of Luke Jericho and Mark Rattley having a tremendous impact and using the ball extremely well.

It took Glenelg 11 minutes to register a goal, through busy Luke Panozza, but that was the only major for the first term. The Bloods kept the scoreboard attendant active with six goals.

The opening quarter set the trend for the next two terms with the Bloods prepared to challenge the Tigers with a nothing-to-lose attitude.

Given the Tigers went into the game only a game behind fifth-placed South Adelaide, it was a disgraceful performance from a side still in contention for a finals berth.

SCOREBOARD

Adelaide Oval, Crowd 1435

BLOODS	128	6.4	10.9	17.12	19.14	87	1.3	4.6	4.11	12.15	GLENELG

GOALS
Prokopec 5; Porplyzia 3; Dray, Dragicevic, Malinovski 2; Hamblin, Munn, Glover, Slatttery, Lewis

BEST
Jericho, Prokopec, Porplyzia, Piasente, Chubb, Rattley, Dragicevic

GOALS
Duldig 3; Mitchell, Cook 2; Allison, Cranston, Backwell, Panozza, Herbert.

BEST
Butcher, Backwell, Fisher

INJURIES/REPORTS

West: Nil. **Glenelg:** Ruwoldt (reserves) replaced in selected side by Backwell

Umpires: A. Meade, C. Doddridge, B. Duff

SANFL

WINNERS: MARGIN — CENTRAL 184 POINTS; PORT 47 POINTS; WEST 41 POINTS; EAGLES 6 POINTS

LADDER

TEAM	P	W	L	For	Agst	Str	%	Pts
EAGLES	16	12	4	1703	1340	W2	55.96	24
CENTRAL	15	10	5	1571	1175	W7	57.21	20
STURT	16	9	7	1407	1361	L1	50.83	18
NORTH**	14	8	6	1500	1370	L1	52.26	16
PORT	15	8	7	1542	1503	W2	50.64	16
South	16	7	9	1467	1510	L5	49.28	14
Norwood	16	7	9	1313	1482	L2	46.98	14
Glenelg	16	6	10	1517	1645	L1	47.98	12
West	16	3	13	1143	1777	W1	39.14	6

**Bye *Yet to play this round

GOALS

Rank/Player	(R15)	Tot
1 Schell (CD)	(9)	54
2 Warren (SA)	(2)	52
3 Waterhouse (P)	(2)	51
4 Mitchell (G)	(2)	42
5 Hargraves (NA)	(*)	39

ROUND 19

Saturday: South v North (Noarlunga).
Sunday: Glenelg v Port - (Glenelg); Sturt v Central (Unley).
Bye: Norwood, West, Eagles.

WEST

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
MALINOVSKI	8	2	3	0	1	2	8	0	2
PROKOPEC	7	5	3	0	0	5	1	0	1
CHUBB	7	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	3
PORPLYZIA	10	9	10	1	0	3	1	1	2
ILLMAN	10	5	4	0	0	0	2	3	3
RATTLEY	17	9	5	0	3	0	1	0	2
HAMBLIN	6	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	3
JERICHO	20	7	9	1	0	0	1	0	1
PIASANTE	23	7	6	1	0	0	2	0	3
DONALDSON	12	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
GRIEGER	4	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	2
SLATTERY	10	6	2	0	1	1	0	0	1
MUNN	5	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	1
DRAY	8	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
PURCHASE	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	2
DABROWSKI	4	4	5	2	1	0	0	10	2
DRAGICEVIC	18	7	11	0	0	2	1	0	2
GLOVER	6	3	6	0	1	1	0	0	1
LEWIS	4	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
WALKER	4	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	1
BOROWSKI	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	189	90	95	9	11	19	14	14	36

GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
MITCHELL	10	4	2	1	0	2	1	0	1
DULDIG	5	3	8	0	1	3	0	0	0
COOK	15	1	2	3	1	2	0	0	3
SALOPEK	13	4	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
HERBERT	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	12	0
FISHER	9	5	11	1	2	0	0	1	4
SCHUBACK	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
BUTCHER	15	10	13	0	0	0	2	0	0
HEAVILL M	13	8	5	0	0	1	1	0	0
BLOCK	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MULES	6	5	4	2	0	0	0	0	2
PANOZZO	10	5	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
STATHAM	7	4	6	1	0	0	0	0	2
SHERWOOD	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
BURDETT	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CRANSTON	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	2
CULPITT	18	10	4	0	0	0	4	0	2
HORAN	8	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
BACKWELL	20	10	9	2	0	1	0	0	1
ALLISON	4	3	2	0	1	1	2	0	0
ROGERS	7	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	180	87	83	11	9	12	15	21	22

SCOREBOARD

Alberton Oval, Crowd 1435

PT ADELAIDE	112	4.4	8.6	13.8	17.10	65	3.1	7.3	9.7	9.11	STURT

GOALS
Slattery 3; Waterhouse, Elstone, Pickett 2; Ilett, AhChee, Harry, Jenner, J Clayton, Biacsi, Taylor, M Clayton 1

BEST
M Clayton, Elstone, Brown, Harry, Ilett, J Clayton

GOALS
Chambers, Squire, Bowen 2; Thurstans, Wicks, Nelson

BEST
Squire, Chaplin, Thomson, Wicks, Eckermann

NAP Oval, Crowd 3096

CENTRAL	151	5.5	10.8	17.10	23.13	47	2.0	5.2	7.3	7.5	SOUTH

GOALS
Schell 9; Bello 4; J Gowans, McCabe 2; Graham, Scouller, Steinberner, C Gowans, Slade, R Cochrane 1

BEST
Schell, Steinberner, Bello, Symes, Sibenaler, McCabe, C Gowans, J Gowans, Arnott

GOALS
Warren 2; Vick, Davis, Handby, Hedge, Fleming 1

BEST
Fleming, Davis, Neagle, McGlone, Parry

Woodville Oval, Crowd 2255

EAGLES	89	5.5	6.8	9.12	12.17	80	2.1	7.7	9.10	11.14	NORWOOD

GOALS
Stokes 3; Rugolo, Inkster, Treeby 2; Knights, Ellis, Lindsay

BEST
Knights, Inkster, Colville, Stokes, Skipworth, Treeby, Lindsay,

GOALS
Neill 4; Bassett, Gallagher 2; Bailey, Patfull, Bown

BEST
Gallagher, Campbell, B. James, Bailey, Massie, Bown

Bays coach deflects sack talk as pressure mounts

WARREN PARTLAND

BESIEGED Glenelg coach Peter Simmons wants to fulfil his two-year deal with the club and remain at the helm next season.

While poor form and player disharmony have sparked rumours about Simmons' future at Brighton Road, the first-year league coach is adamant he can do the job.

Speculation he was in danger of being sacked has been further fuelled by the Tigers' woeful effort against bottom side West Adelaide on Saturday. Asked whether he was confident in his ability to do the job in the aftermath of the 41-point defeat, Simmons said "absolutely, no doubt".

"You question everything after days like that and after a season like we have had," Simmons said. "We have got reasonable personnel.

"South wouldn't be in a different situation to what we are. You feel pressure regardless of whether you are coaching the under 17's, amateur league or whatever.

"If you are winning you don't feel pressure, things are going swimmingly and you think you are a genius. If you are losing in the under 17's or amateur league it is the same (as league). You can't think about everything else other than what you are doing from a week to week basis.

"The club is going to do whatever it thinks is the right thing – there is no point worrying about it."

The club yesterday backed Simmons with chief executive Darren Chandler saying he had a two-year contract. It is believed as many as six players, including dual club champion Billy Neely, Heath Culpitt and Brett Backwell, could leave the club if Simmons stays in the role despite all being contracted for next season.

Bays give Simmons the sack

ANDREW CAPEL

PETER Simmons has been sacked as Glenelg coach – just nine months into a two-year contract.

The Tigers yesterday made the agonising decision to severe ties with their eighth coach in the past 15 years after an inglorious season which has netted just six wins in 18 rounds.

Assistant and reserves coach Tony Burgess, who played at West Adelaide and Collingwood, will take over from Simmons as caretaker coach until the end of the season.

His role as reserves coach is to be temporarily filled by reserves assistant Stephen Carr.

Simmons' axing comes amid speculation of a player revolt at Brighton Rd had he fulfilled his contract and stayed for another year. It is understood as many as eight players, including gun trio Billy Neely, Glenelg's best and fairest winner in the past two years, Brett Backwell and Heath Culpitt would have quit the club if Simmons had stayed. Glenelg chief executive Darren Chandler denied the players had anything to do with Simmons' sacking, saying the 1987 North Adelaide premiership player paid the price for an "underperforming season".

"We believe we have a very good list which has underperformed," Chandler said of his eighth-placed team, adding Simmons' contract would be paid out. "It is not a decision we wanted to make but it was in the best interests of the footy club. We needed to get far more organised and play more consistent footy." It is understood Simmons, who was a part-time coach, had trouble juggling his coaching and work commitments, which contributed to his fall-out with the playing group.

Simmons is the eighth Glenelg coach, with Kym Hodgeman (1991-92), Mark Williams (1993-94), Tony Symonds (1995-96), Wayne Stringer (1997), Tony McGuinness (1998-2000), Brenton Honor (2001-02) and David Noble (2003-04), to depart since Graham Cornes led the team to a grand final in 1990.

Glenelg terminated Simmons' services now – rather than at the end of the year – so it could get an early start on finding a replacement.