



Panthers prowl on centre stage

SOUTH Adelaide's rags-to-riches season continued yesterday when the Panthers rolled Glenelg by 31 points in the elimination final at AAMI Stadium.

South's attack-at-all-costs game plan exposed Glenelg's inferior workrate and has seen the club make the remarkable leap from wooden spoon in 2010 to a semi-final against the Eagles.

After taking control of the midfield early and establishing a four-goal lead, the big test was whether the Panthers would hold their nerve.

They barely flinched - proving toughness inside stoppages and hard-running on the outside was a potent finals' mix.

"The attitude we went in with was 'we want to take the game on', you don't save finals, you have to win finals," South coach Ron Fuller said.

"In some ways we've been rehearsing for three or four months that style of footy and it was well suited to SANFL finals."

Nick Liddle was simply outstanding while Andrew Horne and Joel Cross also got on top in the middle.

Glenelg fans were handed more finals' misery but caretaker coach Kris Massie refused to dwell on what could have been.

Still in contention for the job next year, Massie immediately outlined his plans for pre-season should he be appointed.

He told any player who had a problem with it to come and see him because 2011 would not be repeated.

"I think we were behind the eight-ball from the word go. From the day dot of pre-season," Massie said.

"What we put on, is what we got back. So we were playing catch-up."

Glenelg looked a better side with Ty Allen back from injury but despite kicking the first goal, it was all the Panthers in the first term.



REECE HOMFRAY

South won the footy at the clearances led by Liddle and Horne and had clean entry inside 50 to kick the next four goals against the breeze.

But they did suffer a blow when reliable defender Josh Thewlis left the ground 18 minutes in with what Fuller described as a season-ending shoulder injury.

South had the chance to put Glenelg to the sword in the second term when they had the wind but Glenelg stood firm and classy goals to Kane Tenace and Ben Kennedy had them right back in it.

Horne's third goal just before half-time was the only thing stopping the Tigers' charge as South led by 13 points at the main break.

The Panthers were under pressure but responded and Peter Rolfe's set-shot from 50m put them 28 points up entering time-on of the third quarter.

The Tigers had one last crack at South early in the final term and the Panthers did them a few favours with some costly misses.

It took 17-year-old Todd McKay to kick truly 10 minutes in to settle his side and Michael Wundke finished it off soon after.

"It's a great experience for the young players, you can't buy it," Fuller said.

"We've been able to play in one (final). Now we're able to play in two.

"There's a big difference between playing a game of football and winning it and there's a big difference between playing a final and winning it."

Read the coaches' press conferences at www.localfooty.sa.com.au



HARD HITS: Lachie Neale, Joel Cross and Toby Stribling vie for the ball at AAMI Stadium yesterday and, inset from left, Ben Kennedy is hit high by Nathan Daniel, Ty Allen checks on Matthew Snook and Norwood's Brett Zorzi kicks under pressure from Matthew Goldsworthy.

Picture: SIMON CROSS/NIGEL PARSONS

GLENELG v SOUTH ADELAIDE AAMI Stadium, yesterday

GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
ADLINGTON	10	6	8	-	1	-	-	-	-
AGNEW	-	1	4	1	4	-	-	4	5
ALLEN	7	1	8	3	4	1	1	-	5
CRANSTON	2	1	5	2	3	-	-	35	6
CURRAN	11	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	2
GRIMA	4	1	3	-	2	2	-	-	1
HENDER	6	1	3	1	2	-	1	-	2
B.KANE	17	6	6	4	2	2	2	-	1
C.KANE	8	6	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
KENNEDY	10	5	3	-	-	1	-	-	2
KIRK	4	1	2	1	-	-	1	10	1
KIRKBY	12	7	-	3	-	1	2	-	5
McMAHON	17	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	1
MULES	5	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
MURPHY	9	5	9	1	-	1	-	3	3
NEALE	10	5	15	1	-	-	1	-	1
RUDOLPH	7	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	3
SELLAR	6	5	9	2	-	-	-	7	2
SHAW	8	3	6	1	1	-	-	-	5
SNOOK	9	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	3
TENACE	11	2	8	-	-	2	-	-	1
Totals	173	76	121	24	23	10	10	59	49

SOUTH

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
AINGER	7	5	2	-	1	2	-	-	-
BASS	4	1	1	-	2	-	-	9	2
BROOKSBY	4	2	4	2	1	-	-	16	2
BROWN	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
CAREY	20	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	2
COCKSHELL	5	1	1	-	5	-	2	8	2
CRABB	4	1	4	-	3	-	-	-	1
CROSS	14	2	10	6	2	-	1	-	7
DANIEL	12	9	2	-	2	1	3	-	1
GOTCH	11	3	10	3	-	-	-	-	2
HORNE	23	7	9	2	-	3	-	-	2
LIDDLE	8	3	20	2	2	-	1	-	4
LYONS	9	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
MacLEOD	10	6	4	-	1	2	1	-	1
McKAY	8	2	2	1	-	1	1	-	1
MURPHY	16	13	5	1	1	-	-	-	-
ROLFE	7	3	2	2	-	1	1	-	2
SANDERY	3	2	6	-	1	-	-	-	1
STRIBLING	17	3	8	-	-	1	2	-	4
THEWLIS	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
WUNDKE	11	8	3	1	-	3	2	-	-
Totals	195	81	101	23	24	14	17	33	38

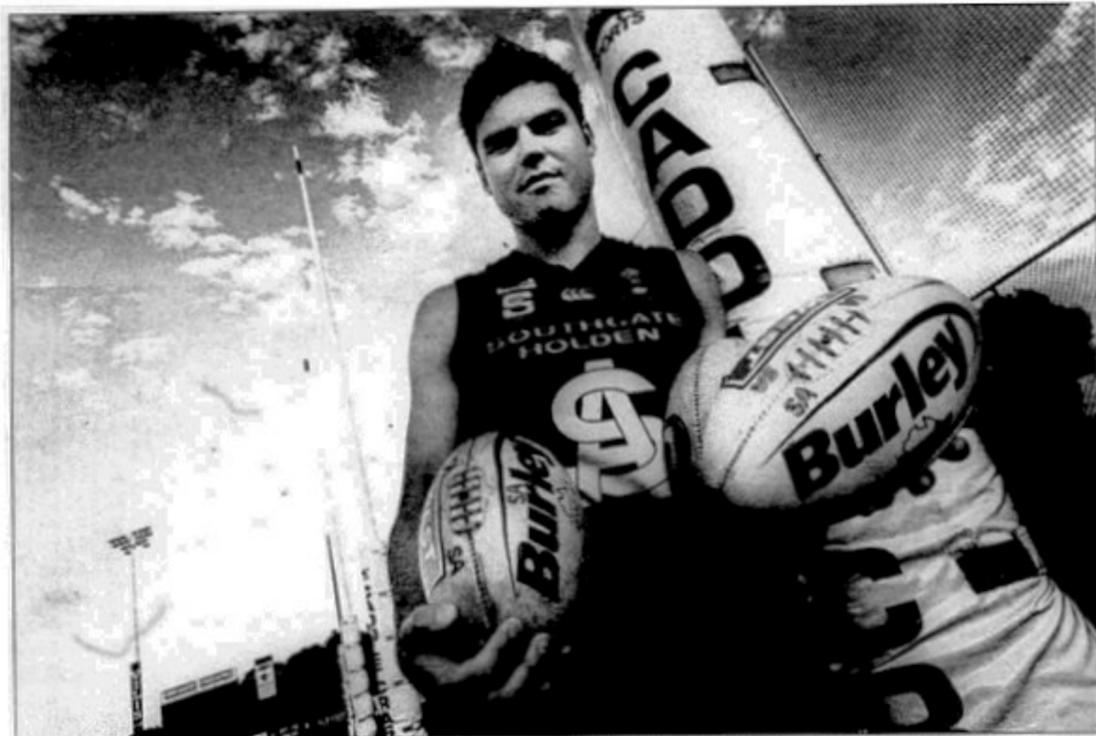
QUALIFYING FINAL

NORWOOD	3.4	9.7	12.11	17.12	(114)
EAGLES	3.0	4.3	5.4	8.5	(53)
BEST - Norwood:	Suckling, Shenton, Campbell, Pfeiffer, McGuinness, Webber, Fuller, Young.				
Eagles:	Petrenko, Cicolella, Jarrad.				
SCORERS - Norwood:	Shenton 6.3, Eagleton, Brown 2.1, Fuller 2.0, Doyle, Campbell, Pfeiffer 1.1, Hughes, Webber 1.0, Zorzi, Rowe, Bown 0.1, rushed 0.1.				
Eagles:	Parry 2.0, Goldsworthy 1.2, Allmond, Grocke 1.1, Hall, Petrenko, Cicolella 1.0, rushed 0.1.				
INJURIES - Norwood:	Campbell (calf).				
UMPIRES	R. Williams, M. Avon, C. Fleer.				
CROWD	9192 at AAMI Stadium.				

ELIMINATION FINAL

SOUTH ADELAIDE	5.4	8.7	11.13	14.17	(101)
GLENELG	2.4	6.6	8.7	10.10	(70)
BEST - South:	Liddle, Horne, Cross, Carey, Macleod, Murphy, Stribling.				
Glenelg:	Adlington, Neale, B. Kane, Shaw, McMahon.				
SCORERS - South:	Wundke 3.2, Horne 3.0, Macleod 2.1, Ainger 2.0, Daniel 1.3, Stribling 1.2, Rolfe, McKay 1.1, Cockshell 0.2, Liddle 0.1, rushed 0.3.				
Glenelg:	B. Kane 2.2, Grima, Tenace 2.0, Kirkby 1.2, Allen 1.1, Murphy, Kennedy 1.0, Neale, Hender, Kirk 0.1, rushed 0.2.				
INJURIES - South:	Thewlis (AC joint).				
Glenelg:	Kirk (cheekbone).				
UMPIRES	C. Rowston, T. Dey, L. Haussen.				

Finals now main goal for Wundke



Leading goalkicker: Key forward Michael Wundke is South's first Ken Farmer Medallist since 1995. Picture: David Cronin

HE'S rewritten one of SA football's great quiz questions, but South Adelaide forward Michael Wundke says he is more interested in penning a new chapter in the Panthers' SANFL finals history, starting today.

Wundke, 23, is South Adelaide's first Ken Farmer Medallist as the competition's leading goalkicker since 1995, erasing former Footscray superbomb Danny Del-Re from the trivia books.

North Adelaide junior product Wundke shone in his maiden 2011 season at Noarlunga, kicking a league-high 67 goals and playing a crucial role in the Panthers launching their first finals campaign since 2006.

But the former North Melbourne-listed forward and two-time VFL premiership player with North Ballarat said taking South into the second week of finals by beating Glenelg in today's elimination final at AAMI Stadium was the bigger prize.

"I know he (Del-Re) was the last bloke to have won it for South, was it in '95?" Wundke said. "Someone the other day told me he won it with 92 goals, and he kicked 40 against Sturt. You always hear a bit of talk about being up there (on the leaderboard) but it didn't faze me too much. We had a job to do each week and that was the main thing."

"It's a great honour but you don't play for individual honours, we're all out to get the same thing and that's to win a flag and be successful."



"You do take these things when they come but there's a lot more at stake this weekend, playing our first final in five years down there at South so it's great to be amongst it. We're there to win, not just make up the numbers. That's the focus."

Wundke was drafted to North Melbourne in the 2007 rookie draft before being elevated to the senior list. He played the 2008 and 2009 seasons with VFL affiliate North Ballarat, kicking 83 goals in its premiership double.

The 191cm, 90kg key forward returned to North Adelaide last year but a quad injury wrecked his 2010 season.

Wundke revealed the forgettable year at Prospect, after his delisting from North Melbourne, left him questioning his own ability and considering his future.

"The move down there was one of the toughest decisions I've had to make in my life and footy, because I've still got a lot of really good friends from 10 years at North, from juniors all the way through," he said.

"I didn't have the best year so I sat down at the end of last year, went away and was thinking about my options and what I wanted to do. There was a stage there where I doubted that I could still perform at that level."

"Mentally I wasn't in the right frame of mind. Mum and dad and a few close mates were really good, I spoke to them and it sort of just figured itself out."

"(South Adelaide coach) Ron (Fuller) came into the picture, and he didn't say 'we want you now', he asked me where I sat and what he thought I thought I could do better and what I needed to work on, which was fantastic. Ron really does seem to get the best out of players, however old they are. Everyone knows how many young players he's helped get to the AFL, but it's also 26 and 27-year-olds as well."

"Last year I honestly don't know what went wrong, my body just didn't hold up. I probably wasn't in the best shape I could've been in on the first day back but this year I really set myself for a big pre-season."

"I set myself a few goals, one of those was to play every game and I've done that - and now we get the chance to play in a final, which is fantastic."

Wundke, who last played on AAMI Stadium in North Adelaide's 2006 reserves premiership, said South Adelaide took massive confidence from beating last year's grand finalist Norwood a week ago to earn its finals spot today. "We do, but last week is gone," he said.

"We've just got to take our opportunities now. We've got nothing to lose so we'll see how we go. We'll take the game on and see where it takes us."

Bad record irrelevant to Tigers' coach

SCOTT WALSH

GLENELG coach Kris Massie says the Tigers' forgettable finals record means nothing as it fights to keep its season alive against South Adelaide in today's elimination final.

The Bays racked up a 2-7 win-loss count in the major round in five years under Mark Mickan, who was sacked from Brighton Rd in June.

But caretaker Massie said that form line gave him no extra point to prove against the Panthers at AAMI Stadium today. "Personally, not at all," he said. "Someone told me the other day that Glenelg hadn't won at AAMI Stadium for 20 years. I mentioned that to the playing group, I looked at Matthew Snook and asked him what he was doing 20 years ago - he wasn't born."

"So really, the past is the past. We're not

shying away from it. The footy club has struggled come finals time.

"We haven't had the success that is expected and until we do have success in finals there will be that external thought of 'here we go again, perhaps the group will choke'."

"Internally, it's been identified. We've accepted the results from the past haven't been what we hoped but in terms of what happens (today), none of that dictates how we go about our footy."

Massie was set to confirm his matchday 21 after consulting with club medicos last night - but is certain to welcome back Ty Allen, Paul Adlington, Sam Rudolph and Byron Murphy.

South Adelaide, which has lost Jake Veide to a broken leg, will decide this morning which two to cut from its extended five-man bench.

the line up



GLENELG v PANTHERS
AAMI Stadium, Today,
12.10pm

Ruck:
Cranston, B. Kane, Tenace
Interchange (from):
C. Kane, Kennedy, Agnew, O'Grady, Trembath

In:
Allen, Adlington, Rudolph, Murphy, C. Kane, O'Grady.

Out:
K. Cornes, Clayfield, Bradley, Murdoch



Ruck:
Brooksby, Murphy, Liddle
Interchange (from):
McKay, Brown, Leonard, Rolfe, Bass
In: Ainger, McKay, Carey, Rolfe
Out: Veide, Hourigan

the game plan

South has statistically been the best clearance side in the competition this season and will want the game to be decided in the midfield.

The Panthers need to provide steady supply to Ken Farmer Medal winner Michael Wundke because they don't have many other weapons in the forward half.

Glenelg will live and die by its tackling. If the Tigers attack the ball and man with vigour they will be in the contest and speed merchants Alex Grima, Daniel Kirk and Jordan McMahon will have the opportunity to show their wares.

If not the Glenelg defence - which conceded more than any side this season - will be under the pump.

in position

Forward

South has the best forward on the ground in Wundke but Glenelg has more attacking options in Kirk, Grima, Lewis Hender and Ruory Kirkby. Nathan Daniel could be a wildcard for the Panthers.

Midfield

Glenelg will be boosted by the return of toughman Ty Allen and has Ben Kane in blistering form. But South has a bit more quality in Nick Liddle, Joel Cross, Toby Stribling and Xavier Gotch.

Defence

Both defences are slightly undersized but in an advantage to Glenelg. South really doesn't have the tails to stretch the Tigers. How the Panthers replace centre half back Jake Veide remains to be seen because Andrew Ainger is a natural forward.

for the record

The Panthers have had Glenelg's measure this season, drawing at Noarlunga after leading by 32 points at half time and winning by 41 points at the Bay in round 18.

South is the first team since North in 2004 to play finals the season after winning the wooden spoon.

Glenelg is in its fifth consecutive finals but has lost its past 11 finals at AAMI Stadium, dating back to 1992.

The Tigers have lost their past five finals matches.