Round 21, 2016

Surgery setbacks sour Eagles victory

WOODVILLE-West Torrens banked the crucial two premiership points but has its injury concerns following a 63-point triumph over Glenelg in Woodville yesterday.

The Eagles are likely to be without rover James Boyd for the rest of the season after hurting his collarbone while dangerous small forward Lachlan McGregor has an arm injury. The pair will have surgery today. Eagles coach Michael Godden lamented the setbacks but described the effort from his side as mature.

"We kept at it all day," he said. "Glenelg can be unpredictable, they can score quickly. We had to stay focused on what we had to do and we were mature. To kick 20 odd goals is a good effort because traditionally we don't kick a big score."

The Tigers tested the Eagles early with a physical brand of football but as the game lengthened, the home side's midfield, sparked by ruckman Jarrad Redden, took control.

There is no player in the competition firing as well as Eagles on-baller Nick O'Brien.

Chris Hall and Jarrad Allmond continued their fine form while defender Patrick Giuffreda is rarely beaten.

"We were happy with the competitiveness around the footy in the first half," Tigers football manager Paul Sandercock said. "The Eagles started to dominate the ruck and got first use of the footy."

The Eagles are all but guaranteed the minor premiership.

ON THE MOVE: Glenelg's Riley McFarlane tries to escape the clutches of Eagle Angus Rowntree. Picture: DEAN MARTIN

ADELAIDE	9.3	14.7	19.10	27.17	**179**
WEST ADELAIDE	3.0	5.1	9.5	13.7	**85**

BEST **Adelaide** Grigg, Wigg, Gore, Knight, Ellis-Yolmen, Beech, Schoenmakers, Greenwood. **West Middleton**, O'Brien, Schiller, Favretto, Stevens, Wasley-Black. GOALS **Adelaide** Knight, Beech, Schoenmakers 4, Grigg 3, Menzel, Dear, Gore 2, Greenwood, Milera, Wigg, Spriggs, Hampton, Hunter. **West Middleton** 4, Wasley-Black 3, O'Brien, Green, Slattery, Turner, Rankine, Webb. UMPIRES Sobieraj, Philp, Hundertmark. CROWD 2059 at Berri Oval.

STURT	5.3	6.6	11.6	12.7	**79**
NORTH ADELAIDE	1.4	5.6	7.8	11.9	**75**

BEST **Sturt** Evans 4, Hansen, Beard 2, Greenslade, Kirkwood, McMahon, Crocker. **North** Barns, Clisby, Shannon 2, Motlop, McDonough, De Leonardis, M.Thring, Ryswyk. BEST **Sturt** Kirkwood, Evans, Martin, Battersby, Lienert, Crocker. **North** Clisby, Craig, McKenzie, Motlop, M.Thring. UMPIRES Crosby, Bennett, Lewis. CROWD at Peter Motley Oval, Unley.

EAGLES	4.0	9.5	17.7	21.11	**137**
GLENELG	3.1	6.1	9.3	10.4	**64**

BEST **Eagles** O'Brien, Hall, Allmond, Redden, Goldsworthy, Giuffreda. **Glenelg** Sawford, Scott, Haarsma, Johansen, Woodall. GOALS **Eagles** Hall, O'Brien, Wundke 4, McGregor 3, Rowntree 2, Goldsworthy, N. Hayes, Redden, Ainger. **Glenelg** Woodall, Galley 2, Johansen, Sawford, Nicholson, Sumner, Koster, J. Pitt. INJURIES **Eagles** McGregor (arm), Boyd (collarbone). CROWD 2172 at Maughan Thiem Hyundai Oval, Woodville.

PORT ADELAIDE	7.4	9.6	15.7	16.7	**103**
NORWOOD	0.0	1.0	7.0	12.6	**78**

BEST **Port** Summerton, Mitchell, Masters, Snelling, T.Gray, Ah Chee, Butcher. **Norwood** Baulderstone, Chippendale, Panos, Viney, Roocke. GOALS **Port** Butcher 4, Mitchell 3, Summerton, Young 2, T.Gray, Hawkins, Biemans, Snelling, Ah Chee. **Norwood** Viney 4, Dawe 3, Panos 2, Roocke, Georgiou, Giannini. UMPIRES Scott, Bowen, Hosking. CROWD 2501 at Alberton Oval.

DRAW

ROUND 22 **Saturday** Central District v West Adelaide (My Money House Oval, Elizabeth), Norwood v Eagles (Coopers Stadium, Norwood), South Adelaide v Adelaide (Hickinbotham Oval, Noarlunga), Sturt v Glenelg (Peter Motley Oval, Unley). **Bye** North Adelaide, Port Adelaide.

SANFL LADDER

	P	W	L	For	Agst	Stk	%	Pts
Eagles	17	14	3	1479	1004	5W	59.6	28
South Adelaide	17	13	4	1581	1224	4W	56.4	26
Sturt	17	13	4	1372	1128	1W	54.9	26
Adelaide	17	11	6	1589	1301	3W	55.0	22
Central District	17	9	8	1458	1324	1L	52.4	18
Port Adelaide	18	9	9	1636	1524	3W	51.8	18
Glenelg	17	6	11	1405	1611	3L	46.6	12
Norwood	17	5	12	1183	1476	2L	44.5	10
North Adelaide	18	4	14	1430	1640	8L	46.6	8
West Adelaide	17	2	15	1003	1904	7L	34.5	4

Chad barracking for West win

WARREN PARTLAND

NOW the impatient wait begins for Port Adelaide to know if it has done enough with its belated charge at an SANFL finals berth.

Port climbed equal with fifth-placed Central District on the premiership ladder with a 25-point victory of an indifferent Norwood at Alberton Oval yesterday.

It has inferior percentage to the Bulldogs although it actually had a grasp of fifth when it led the Redlegs by 67 points in the third term.

But, and this is a key but, Port has the bye in the final round this weekend while the Bulldogs face bottom-placed West Adelaide in Elizabeth on Saturday.

"Looking from afar last year I was really happy for (West Adelaide coach) Mark Mickan, he is a great guy and deserved to win a premiership," Port coach Chad Cornes said.

"Other than that, I'll be barracking pretty hard for them, so go Westies. If we get the chance (to play in the finals) great, but I'm still proud of the boys.

"The first half was probably as good as we have been moving the footy. In the last quarter, Norwood got a run on and we struggled to contain that."

The tone of the first half was established from the outset when Port embarrassed the Redlegs in the opening quarter with a stunning performance.

Port smashed the Redlegs at the stoppages and its ball movement was precise, spreading with telling affect and creating outside run to create havoc with the wind at its back.

Port captain Steven Summerton was the general for many attacks while Kane Mitchell and Will Snelling had no trouble finding possessions.

Finding loose Port players also was no issue.

The second term was no better for the Redlegs, kicking just one goal with the wind. They were lazy, inept at most facets of the game and slap on the back defined a Redlegs tackle. Seriously, they seemed to lack interest.

At least the Redlegs were competitive in the third quarter, being outscored by just one point.

And then they found some real spirit and desire, adding 5.6 for the final term while restricting Port to just one goal.

Redlegs coach Ben Warren said the first quarter was unacceptable and too many players had wanted to play the game on their terms and not dig in and do the team things.

"We had 26 tackles for the day which sums us up," Warren said.

"We were quite good after half-time."