We can win the flag, declares Tigers boss

Glenelg's Max Proud hugs Chris Curran after he goaled in the Tigers' stunning 71-point win against the Eagles. Picture: Cory Sutton/SANFL

Warren Partland

Glenelg coach Darren Reeves did not hold back after guiding his outfit to an emphatic 71-point thumping of an injury-hit Woodville-West Torrens in the elimination final at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Such was the magnitude of the triumph, it was the Tigers' biggest winning margin over the Eagles since round 3, 1993.

"We can win it (premiership), I've got no doubt about it," Reeves declared. "I've got no doubt about it – I think our best matches up really well against anyone."

Reeves admitted the Tigers are "coming from a long way back" after dropping to fourth on the ladder and being forced to negotiate three weeks of cut-throat finals just to qualify for the grand final.

"We played as well as we possibly could considering the circumstances and if we play at a level I know we can, we can absolutely win it (flag)," Reeves said.

"Some of our ball movement in tough conditions at times was elite.

"All our good players stood up. We came through unscathed and will get (Jack Oatey Medallist Lachie) Hosie back next week (from a knee injury) providing he gets through training."

The Tigers' bid to stay alive in the race for the SANFL crown was definitely aided early in the contest when Eagles captain Joe Sinor left the game after being heavily concussed in a body clash.

Typical of the fearless Sinor, the tough midfielder was flattened after running back with the flight of the ball.

"He is the skipper and he's inspirational," Eagles coach Sam Jacobs said. "I'm not using Joe as the reason we lost, because we did not start that well.

"But it is really hard to cover that. When you see your captain lying on the ground it takes its toll on the boys.

"Glenelg started well, they are a quality team and we would have been up against it. It does not help when you have that carnage throughout the day."

The Tigers had the wind at their backs for the first quarter and they took advantage to nail three goals in the opening 12 minutes.

Eagles ruckman Jarrad Redden was dominant in the tapwork but the Tigers squared the ledger in the clearance work. James Bell had a massive influence for the Tigers, Cole Gerloff was outstanding and Will Chandler was dangerous in attack.

The Eagles bagged three goals in the second term and the Tigers responded immediately each time to keep their opponents at arm's length.

The wounded Eagles had no answers in the second half as the Tigers turned up the heat, creating opportunities with terrific pressure and intensity around the contest.

Jacobs praised Redden, Luke Thompson and Matthew Goldsworthy following their retirements, acknowledging the trio as high-quality people.

"Everyone knows their footy accolades but they are good people as well and played for the club for the right reasons and put others first," he said.

SANFL ELIMINATION FINAL
GLENELG V EAGLES

5.2	1.4
9.6	4.8
14.14	5.9
19.17	8.12
131	**60**

BEST – Glenelg: Bell, Lyons, Curran, Gerloff, Allen, Chandler, Proud, Snook. **Eagles:** Redden, Goldsworthy, Williams, Thompson, Rowe.
GOALS – Glenelg: Reynolds, Allen, Chandler 3, McBean, Stretch 2, Gerloff, Lyons, Bell, Curran, Window, Lovelock. **Eagles:** Goldsworthy 3, Ballenden 2, McKay, Wheare, Williams.
INJURIES – Eagles: Sinor (jaw/concussion), Fleeton (concussion), Morris (concussion).
UMPIRES – Lewis, Williams, Harris.

SANFL QUALIFYING FINAL
CENTRAL V STURT

1.0	2.3
1.2	4.6
3.2	5.9
8.2	5.9
50	**39**

BEST – Central: Dittmar, Montgomerie, Sharp, Grace, Thomas, Whitelum, Barry, Iles. **Sturt:** Lewis, Slimming, Battersby, Snelling, Coomblas, Perez.
GOALS – Central: Grace 3, Thomas, Sharp, Larkins, Dudley, Chisholm. **Sturt:** Anderson, Lewis, Hone, McFadyen, Slimming.
UMPIRES – Sobieraj, Morgan, Sboro.
CROWD – 8121 at Adelaide Oval.

ELIMINATION FINAL
GLENELG v EAGLES
ADELAIDE OVAL, TODAY, 12.15PM

Stretch 18, McBean 5, Snook 3	F	Beattie 21, Cooke 34, Nicholls 23
Chandler 36, Reynolds 7, Gerloff 4	HF	Buck 2, Ballenden 10, Rowe 16
Martini 16, Bell 11, Window 37	C	Barkla 37, Williams 30, Goldsworthy 29
Curran 21, Proud 12, Ridgway 40	HB	Morris 15, Fleeton 4, Sinor 35
Gould 1, Adams 13, Bailey 9	B	Litster 51, Thompson 6, Rowland 24
Holder 23, Lyons 8, Allen 22	R	Redden 55, D'Aloia 5, McKay 1
(from) Lovelock 39, Kitschke 33, McGree 19, Stevens 27, Scharenberg 2, Wisdom 26, Stockman 34	Int	(from) Firns 39, Hansen 14, Moore 28, Wheare 27, McFarlane 9, Menzel 22, Mawson 26
Stockman, Kitschke, Wisdom	In	Mawson, McFarlane, Menzel, Moore
-	Out	Hann (conc)

By ZAC MILBANK
www.sanfl.com.au

Glenelg kick-started its finals campaign in fine style with a rampaging 71-point Elimination Final victory against Woodville-West Torrens at Adelaide Oval.

Booting five of the first six goals of the contest, the Tigers produced a fluent display in the opening half as they moved the ball nicely by foot through the corridor.

At the forefront of this was game-breaking James Bell, who together with Cole Gerloff, got the Bays moving early at the clearances and with an eye-catching goal on the run.

Finishing with 25 disposals, seven clearances, five tackles and his goal, Bell was a major catalyst in setting up the victory, which was Glenelg's second highest against the Eagles since their 1991 merger.

Just as the Bays got rolling early, the Eagles were dealt a severe blow with the loss of captain Joey Sinor, who was forced from the field via a stretcher 22 minutes into the first term.

The brave skipper went back with the flight of the ball without fear for his safety but was left clutching his jaw as he left Adelaide Oval, having collided with Tiger Will Chandler and teammate Max Litster.

And when Eagles defender Cameron Fleeton was unable to return after half-time, it left Sam Jacobs' charges two players short for the second half.

Glenelg turned the screws in the second half as they racked up 62 inside 50s to the Eagles' 41, leading to 36 scoring shots to 20 for the contest.

Leading by 28 points at half-time, the Bays stretched their advantage to 59 by the final change as veteran Chris Curran provided a moment to remember, acknowledging his late dad on father's day after kicking a rare goal in the third quarter.

The margin allowed Glenelg to cruise toward next Sunday's First Semi-Final, with Matt Allen tallying 22 disposals and three goals while Corey Lyons worked tirelessly for his game-high 27 possessions and five clearances.

Gerloff racked up 22 touches to go with his first goal of the game while Curran (21 disposals, one goal) Matt Snook (23 disposals) and Billy Stretch (17 disposals, two goals) all had a positive influence.

In attack, Will Chandler provided a genuine spark at ground level as he booted three goals and set up several others from his 11 disposals and three tackles.

Luke Reynolds also booted three classy majors for the Bays while skipper Liam McBean chimed in with two.

Things got worse for the Eagles when defender Josh Morris was forced from the field four minutes into the fourth clutching his shoulder, leaving them with just one fit man left on the bench.

James Rowe worked hard for the Eagles with 19 disposals and five clearances while Zane Williams was lively at times with his 17 touches and a goal.

Veteran ruckman Jarrad Redden finished his career with seven disposals and 38 hit outs while fellow retiree Luke Thompson had 18 disposals in defence after his 256th and final match.

The third retiree, Matt Goldwsorthy, provided a highlight in the final term when he booted a long bomb from the boundary line near the 50m arc, his third major from 15 disposals in his 260th match.

Best –
Cole Gerloff,
Corey Lyons,
James Bell,
Matthew Allen,
Will Chandler

Coach's Match Report – Elimination Final — Glenelg v Woodville-West Torrens

Finals Week 1 – Elimination Final

Adelaide Oval, Sunday 1st September, 12:15pm

Glenelg	**5.2**	**9.6**	**14.14**	**19.17**	**131**
Woodville-West Torrens	**1.4**	**4.8**	**5.9**	**8.12**	**60**

Goals: **M. Allen 3, L. Reynolds 3, W. Chandler 3, L. McBean 2, B. Stretch 2, C. Lyons, H. Window, C. Curran, A. Lovelock, C. Gerloff, J. Bell**

Best: **J. Bell, C. Gerloff, M. Proud, M. Allen, C. Lyons, W. Chandler**

Most Disposals:
C. Lyons 27, J. Bell 25, M. Snook 23, M. Allen 22, C. Gerloff 22, C. Curran 21, J. Scharenberg 17, B. Stretch 17, W. Gould 16, R. Holder 16, L. Reynolds 15

The goal at the start of every season is to be playing football in September. While we've had moments of inconsistency, we have strong confidence in our long-term preparation and a method that we know stands up in big games. We also took confidence from how we played in the final round of the season heading into the Elimination Final against Woodville West Torrens. We were ready to play strong football, and we knew what the outcome could be if we executed well. Fortunately, our group did just that, starting our finals campaign with a solid 71-point win and advancing to the First Semi-Final against Sturt next Sunday.

It's important to start well in all games, especially finals, and right from the first moments there was a real intent in our contest work, our ability to pressure the ball especially in our forward half and a want to defend the ground strongly and take away their ability to move the ball. When we get the game looking like this, we are confident in what we can do with the ball and the scoring power we have to take advantage of our opportunities. I had mentioned over the last few weeks while the results had been frustrating, the key elements and KPIs in our game were very good and if we could clean up some areas then we would be in good shape – one major area was finishing our work in front of goals. Through the first quarter that was important with scoreboard pressure, the best pressure you can apply. The other big take away from my perspective, was the contribution across the board of our group and the relentlessness that we continued to play with over the entire game. Really pleasing to see and fills us with great confidence. There were some little areas and things we can do better and continue to improve on and we will be getting to work on those throughout this week.

Our Reserves group came up against a really strong Sturt team in their Qualifying Final on Saturday afternoon. While it was disappointing how it played out, what we know this young group has done over the course of the year is learn quickly, get about preparing well and then responding. There are always great learnings out of setbacks, and we will take some of those on board. We will also move on really quickly and this group will prepare for their own First Semi Final against Woodville West Torrens at Stratarama Stadium on Saturday in a double header with our U18s playing in a Preliminary Final also.

One of our real focuses over the last period of time is to take it one day at a time, and not waste energy on things we can't control. The first part of the week is all about recovery, get the review from the weekend out of the way over today and tomorrow and then move on into preparation for Sunday. It was great to see so many Glenelg supporters at Adelaide Oval yesterday and we can't wait to get back there on Sunday and get after our next opportunity against a Sturt team that has been as good as anyone all season. We will be ready to go, that's one thing I am certain of.

Go The Bays

Darren Reeves,
Senior Coach
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