



Brave Eagles victory comes at a high cost

THE EAGLES have stormed into a preliminary final but at a cost with prime midfielders Scott Lewis and Leigh Treeby gone for the season after yesterday's 38-point win over Glenelg.

It was all guts from the Eagles who conceded a four-goal start to the Tigers and ran out the final term with just 17 fit men.

Lewis finished the game with his arm in a sling, Treeby was on crutches, Jarrad Redden was stretchered off with concussion and Trent Hentschel on the bench with a hamstring strain.

The story could be about the competition's biggest choker, Glenelg, which crashed out in straight-sets for the second straight season, but that would take the gloss off a spirited performance from rookie coach Michael Godden's men.

"I said to the players then, it feels a bit funny, a bit empty, but those guys are all team men and they know that's the risk you take when you play the game," Godden said of his wounded Eagles.

"When the game was in the balance we had full rotations, but a gutsy effort to win a final against such a quality outfit and the way we went about it was the most pleasing thing.

"I'm really proud as a mentor to these blokes. To go into a new organisation and get them playing the brand of footy I wanted them to play and it's sort of all culminated in the last couple of weeks."

Treeby and Lewis are both expected to require surgery while Lewis and Redden will be assessed during the week.

"We've got some good depth but to replace two of our best midfielders is going to be very difficult, but we've got belief in our young brigade and they've just got to play a role," Godden said.

As expected the Bays came out firing and Mark Ruwoldt put the first goal on the board within 30 seconds. The Eagles looked slow, weren't sticking their tackles and suddenly trailed by 20 points. But two goals to Trent Hentschel just before quarter time kept them in it. Brodie Smith was outstanding with his run-and-carry and set up Hentschel's third and the Eagles led by three points at half-time.

The two sides broke even with two goals each in the third term before the Eagles unleashed an avalanche of six goals to one in the final quarter - Smith, Jared Polec, Angus Rowntree and Jay Cheep all stepping up.

They won the game by being hungrier and cleaner with the footy, running in waves and out-numbering the Tigers at the contest.

A solemn Tigers coach Mark Mikan has vowed to see out his contract next season but said he would play more kids and guys who could execute skills under pressure.

"There's no question of their work ethic or the fact that they put an effort in and are united as a group ... at the moment it's not a successful club by



any means but it's a united club and a club that's really bleeding," Mikan said.

"We were the highest-scoring team in the minor round (but) it means nothing, our ability to execute basic skills in finals needs to improve. Maybe that's the thing we've got to look at in the future, players who've got silky skills get selected before those who have got a lot of grunt.

"We have to look at that for sure - who makes up the side, who you give opportunities to going forward ... we've got some good young talent coming through.

"Look at Seb Tape - he was our best player by a fair way today, it was his first game.

"He won't be here next year because he'll be playing for an AFL club, but it opens my eyes to the fact that you give young talent a go and you get richly rewarded."



SOARING: Eagles Adam Grocke and Scott Welsh celebrate another goal yesterday.

Picture: RAY TITUS

FIRST SEMI FINAL

EAGLES v GLENELG

Yesterday, AAMI Stadium. Crowd 13,162

EAGLES	2.1	5.5	7.8	13.15	(93)
GLENELG	4.5	4.8	6.12	7.13	(55)

BEST - Eagles: Cicolella, Jarrad, Smith, Rimington, Allmond, Powell, Cheep, Hentschel.

Glenelg: Allen, Tape, Tenace.

SCORERS - Eagles: Hentschel 4.2, Rimington 2.1, Cheep 2.0, Polec 1.3, Grocke, Welsh 1.1, Redden, Smith 1.0, Allmond 0.2, Cicolella, Jarrad, Treeby 0.1, rushed 0.2.

Glenelg: Sellar 2.0, A. Grima 1.2, T. Grima, B. Kane, Ruwoldt, Kirkby 1.1, Bode 0.2, Tenace, Car, Allen, Rudolph, Lally 0.1.

INJURIES - Eagles: Lewis (shoulder), Treeby (ankle), Hentschel (hamstring), Redden (concussion).

UMPIRES - Rowston, Medlin, Haussen.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

CENTRAL v NORWOOD

Yesterday, AAMI Stadium. Crowd 11,449

CENTRAL DISTRICT	5.1	6.5	10.6	12.9	(81)
NORWOOD	0.4	3.7	7.9	9.9	(63)

BEST - Central: Mackenzie, Thomas, Hayes, Boyd, Williams, O'Hara. Norwood: Davis, Puopolo, Gallagher, Rowe, Lower.

SCORERS - Central: Havelberg 3.1, Hayes 3.0, Boyd, Callinan 1.1, Mackenzie, Schell, Gynston, Williams 1.0, Nash, O'Hara 0.2, Sansbury, C. Gowans 0.1. Norwood: Donohue 3.0, Phillips

1.3, Zorzi, Rowe, Terlich 1.1, Davis, Puopolo 1.0, Shenton 0.2, Gallagher 0.1.

INJURIES - Norwood: Donohue (thigh), Hughes (hamstring) withdrew from selected side.

UMPIRES - Philip, Dey, Deboy.

CROWD - 13,162 at AAMI Stadium.

GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tld
ADLINGTON	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALLEN	7	1	15	-	2	-	1	-	2
BODE	5	2	3	-	5	-	2	-	4
CARR	8	1	6	-	2	-	1	-	4
CRANSTON	2	3	6	1	1	-	29	7	7
GRIMA	6	2	4	1	-	1	2	-	3
GRIMA	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	3
KANE	4	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	3
KELLOCK	3	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	1
KIRK	3	4	4	1	1	-	2	3	3
KIRKBY	6	3	3	2	-	1	1	-	1
LALLY	7	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
MILLS	5	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	2
MURPHY	4	3	9	-	-	-	1	2	2
PANOZZO	12	3	7	1	1	-	-	-	2
RUDOLPH	8	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUWOLDT	12	3	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
SELLAR	4	3	1	-	3	2	-	7	-
TAPE	7	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	1
TENACE	16	5	11	-	-	-	1	-	4
Totals	142	62	108	12	19	7	13	42	42

EAGLES

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tld
ALLMOND	14	3	4	-	-	-	2	-	2
CHEEP	10	1	4	3	1	2	-	-	7
CICOLELLA	11	2	11	1	1	-	1	-	3
GIUFFREDA	7	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	3
GRIEGER	4	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	3
GROCKE	7	2	3	2	2	1	1	-	-
HENTSCHEL	9	5	1	-	1	4	2	-	3
JARRAD	16	1	7	1	2	-	1	-	3
LEWIS	8	1	10	-	1	-	-	-	3
McKENZIE	3	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	4
PARRY	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	34	-
POLEC	14	4	1	-	-	1	3	-	1
POWELL	10	3	13	2	-	-	-	-	2
REDDEN	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	7	1
RIMINGTON	11	5	5	3	1	2	1	1	10
ROWNTREE	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
SMITH	4	2	3	1	1	1	-	-	2
SYMONS	6	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	3
THOMPSON	5	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	2
TREEBY	4	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	2
WELSH	4	2	3	-	-	1	1	-	1
Totals	165	52	99	19	12	13	15	42	61

Mikan won't walk on Tigers

REECE HOMFRAY

GLENELG coach Mark Mikan will not walk away from his job at Brighton Road despite coming under renewed pressure following a straight-sets finals exit for the second straight season.

Speaking after yesterday's 38-point first semi-final loss to the Eagles, Mikan said he expected to fulfil the final year of his contract in 2011 but was far from convincing.

"I am expecting that to be the case, we'll have a chat about it during the week ... right now I couldn't give you an answer to that," he said.

"I'd like to be a part of it, I think there's still a window of opportunity there. It's been a very hard couple of years.

"We've just got to learn to execute and play well in big games and make sure we've got the right personnel.

"I take responsibility for it and if that means I'm not there, well, I'm not there."

He said he did not have any self doubt that he was the man to lead the Tigers to a premiership.

"I feel what we do during the year, if you win 17½ games last year and 15 this year there's something there that is worth pursuing, persevering with," Mikan said.

"I really think that there's a pile of quality players who have let themselves down in big games and I'm a big part of that because I'm the coach and I've got to take responsibility for their education and for selecting them in the first place."

Mikan said he had a responsibility to "get it right" for next season - starting this week.

"The players will come back together so we can sit down and sort out where we go from here," he said.

"We'll get the whole playing group together and devise a plan going forward, that's all we can do now."

Flag hope keeps Trev going

the line up



GLENELG v EAGLES

AAMI Stadium, today, 3.10pm

Ruck: Cranston, Allen, Carr
Interchange (from): Sellar, Snook, C. Kane, Kellock
In: Mules, Bode
Out: Meyer

Rudolph	Mills	Adlington
Treeby	Welsh	Polec

Panozzo	Kirk	Mules
Rowntree	Grocke	Redden

B. Kane	Tenace	Ruwoldt
Jarrad	Lewis	Allmond

A. Grima	Kirkby	Murphy
Giuffreda	Hentschel	McKenzie

Bode	T. Grima	Lally
Thompson	Grieger	Symmons



Ruck: Parry, Cicoella, Powell
Interchange: Cheep, Rimington, Smith
In: Redden
Out: Miles

the game plan

Eagles coach Michael Godden was an assistant at Glenelg for several years so he knows the Tigers inside out. It's questionable whether the Eagles are capable of applying the same pressure to the Tigers midfield as Norwood did last week but if they can it's game over. Look for Glenelg to try and get it's key forwards early touches to boost their confidence after a poor game against the Redlegs.

This one is all about mindset for the Tigers. Expect them to come out firing but if the Eagles can weather the storm and put a bit of early scoreboard pressure on the frailty of Mark Mickan's side could be exposed.

in position

Up front

The form of key forward Ruory Kirkby is one of Glenelg's biggest concerns. He's been beaten five weeks in a row - often by inexperienced opponents.

Expect Crows-listed Luke Thompson to get the job, while Ben Grieger will play on Todd Grima - who has played well against the Eagles this year.

Eagles spearhead Adam Grocke was a match-winner last week against Sturt and will be picked up by in-form Glenelg stopper Daniel Kirk.

In the middle

Several Tiger midfielders - including Josh Carr, Kane Tenace and Chris Kane - will be looking to respond to subpar games last week.

In contrast, Eagles onballers Luke Powell, Justin Cicoella and Scott Lewis will be hoping their form remains hot.

Down back

Dale Symmons had a real impact in defence for the Eagles last week while Luke Jarrad ran off his opponent at every opportunity.

For the Bays, Luke Panozzo had 30 disposals against Norwood but couldn't make the best players in a well-beaten side. He needs to be more damaging with his possessions. The biggest question surrounding Glenelg's backline is whether skipper Ben Mules returns from a hamstring injury. His experience will be invaluable to keep the side settled.

for the record

Recent history suggests Glenelg will get home in this one because the past nine qualifying final losers have been able to turn their form around and win the first semi-final. The Tigers have also won their past four games against the Eagles - including a 33-point win in round 20 this season.

JAI BEDNALL

TODAY'S first semi-final clash with Woodville-West Torrens could be the last time Trevor Cranston pulls on a Glenelg jumper.

The 136-game veteran says retirement has "crossed his mind" frequently in the past few weeks, meaning the knockout clash with the Eagles could be the ruckman's final SANFL match.

"I haven't made a definite decision yet, I honestly try not to think about it too much," Cranston said. "But it has crossed my mind."

Cranston was close to pulling the pin after the Tigers' straight sets exit in last year's finals series but continued on this season to chase an elusive maiden premiership.

While his form during the minor round wasn't as dominant as 2009, the 30-year-old still finished the season with the third most hit-outs in the SANFL and he was one of the Tigers' few winners in a devastating qualifying final loss to Norwood last week.

He gave the Tigers a clear advantage in the ruck - they enjoyed a 76-38 edge in hit-outs - but it didn't translate to any significant edge in clearances.

"Early in the game I was palming it but that wasn't working so I started trying to hit it forward," Cranston said.

"Norwood's pressure was fantastic but we probably played into their hands a little bit.

"We never really got our game going."

Cranston will face a much stiffer challenge in ruck today in Eagles opponent Craig Parry.

Parry played his best match of the season last week - taking advantage of Jon Giles' early injury to dominate Sturt.

"I rate Paz," Cranston said. "I've sort of tried to emulate him a little bit, the way he goes about it. I've tried to become as competitive as he is."

Given he returned this year to win a flag it will be heartbreaking for Cranston if the Tigers take the quickest route out of the finals again this season. But the gentle giant is confident his premiership ambitions can still be realised.

"That's the number one goal. It's a massive ask to win three in a row now but it would be an amazing way to do it. The belief is still there."

After that, Cranston will start considering a move home to Victoria.

"I don't think we'll move straight away. My wife is (24 weeks) pregnant at the moment and we've been here for eight years now so it would be hard to pick up and move straight away.

"But both our families are in Victoria so we'll move back there eventually."



CHASE ON: A premiership is Glenelg ruckman Trevor Cranston's No.1 goal

FYI

Hit out leaders

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Jonathon Giles (Sturt) - 606 (average 30.3) | 6. Craig Parry, pictured, (Eagles) - 361 (25.8) |
| 2. Adam Cockshell (South) - 564 (28.2) | 7. Matthew Lobbe (West) - 276 (23.0) |
| 3. TREVOR CRANSTON (Glenelg) - 493 (25.9) | 8. Brady Dawe (Norwood) - 270 (13.5) |
| 4. Jason MacKenzie (Central) - 436 (21.8) | 9. Ryan Willits (West) - 249 (13.1) |
| 5. James Micklejohn (Port) - 414 (24.4) | 10. Shaun McKernan (South) - 243 (14.3) |

Mules out, Tape in for Tigers

JAI BEDNALL

GLENELG will debut state under-18 captain Sebastian Tape in today's knockout semi-final with the Eagles in place of skipper Ben Mules, who has been ruled out with a hamstring injury.

Mules has been unable to recover from the injury suffered in the round 23 loss to Central District and again will be sorely missed in the Tiger defence.

But his absence has presented a dream opportunity for Tape, who had been planning to line up in Glenelg's under-18 side at AAMI Stadium in the early match today.

The AFL Draft Camp invitee played six games in the Tiger reserves after returning from the national championships, including a best-on-ground performance against Central in round 23.

Tape and veteran midfielder Matt Bode replace small forward Shannon Snook and injured Danny Meyer in the 21 who lost to Norwood in last week's quali-

fying final. The Eagles have only made one change, bringing in Power-listed ruckman Jarrad Redden for injured back-up Todd Miles.

After watching the impact Jon Giles' early injury had on Sturt last week, Eagles coach Michael Godden said he wanted the extra security Redden provided if number one tapman Craig Parry was injured.

"We wanted to be covered in the ruck, there's no second chances now," Godden said.

Godden, part of the Glenelg coaching staff which oversaw a straight-sets finals exit last season, denied the Bays were under more pressure than his team today.

"The pressure is on everyone, every club at this time of year," he said.

"They would certainly be putting some pressure on themselves but Mark Mickan and his group are smart enough to know that it's just another game of footy and nothing that's happened in the past matters."