

FLYING HIGH TO HUGE TRIUMPH

Eagles go back-to-back, shock Tigers in decider

ANDREW CAPEL

WOODVILLE-West Torrens has won consecutive SANFL premierships for the first time, sensationally thrashing warm favourite Glenelg by 67 points in the grand final at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

The Eagles, who fielded 10 different players from last year's grand final team, rode brilliant first quarters from the Menzel brothers, Daniel and Troy, to open up a three-goal lead, and then ripped the minor premier apart in the second half.

With State captain Jack Hayes leading from the front and winning the Jack Oatey Medal as best afield, the Menzels kicking seven goals between them, and a tough, no-nonsense defence restricting the Tigers to only four goals, a game that promised so much turned into a one-sided affair.

It was the Eagles' fifth flag since the amalgamation of West Torrens and Woodville at the end of 1990, while the margin was the biggest in a grand final since the Eagles beat Central District by 76 points in 2006.

Glenelg's 4.8 was the lowest grand final score since North Adelaide booted the same score against Norwood in 2013.

Displaying more class, composure, toughness and a better structure than the Tigers, who won their first 17 games this season and entered the grand final with an 18-2 win-loss record, the Eagles' superb off-season recruiting paid big dividends.

Key pick-ups, the Menzels, Riley Knight (27 disposals, eight clearances, 10 tackles) Tyson Stengle (three goals) and Kobe Mutch (26 disposals, 11 tackles, two goals) were all influential on the big stage as coach Jade Sheedy, a Magarey Medallist with Sturt, led the team to back-to-back flags in his first two years as coach.

It was the first time a second semi-final winner had won the premiership since 2014.

The result was a disaster for Glenelg, which went within victory in the final minor round of completing the first undefeated home-and-away season since Port Adelaide in 1914.

Celebrating their centenary year, the Tigers won the reserves and women's premierships but, after the opening 15 minutes against the Eagles, they looked completely rattled on the big stage.

After kicking two of the first three goals, Glenelg, chasing a second flag in three years, looked clueless, saving its worst performance of the season for last.

It played without any system and made one comical error after another in an embarrassing display, following a superb almost flawless home-and-away season.

In the first grand final meeting between the clubs, Glenelg fielded 11 2019 premiership players while the Eagles featured 12 members of last year's flag side.

Magarey Medallist James Tsitas threw his weight around as the teams lined up for the

opening bounce, sparking plenty of pushing and shoving.

The Tigers, with 2019 Magarey Medallist Luke Partington back in the side after missing the losing second semi against the Eagles with a hamstring injury, won the first clearance and dominated the early exchanges, recording six of the first seven inside 50s.

It took a clever piece of roving close to goal from retiring Tiger Marlon Motlop to chalk up the first major.

But after stemming the territorial tide, Daniel Menzel quickly turned the game on its head, breaking clear of opponent Max Proud to kick two goals in five minutes.

When his brother Troy got into the act to kick two himself, and Stengle bobbed up with his first, the Eagles were out to an 18-point quarter-time lead.

The Tigers were getting their hands on the ball but, with key forwards Liam McBean, Luke Reynolds and Lachie Hosie well held and kicking only one goal between them for the game, they trailed by 23 points at the long break, despite leading the inside 50 count 28-23.

The match was all over as a contest nine minutes into the third term when Angus Poole, Hayes and Mutch hit the scoreboard, stretching the Eagles' lead to seven goals.

MATCH STATS

BEST PLAYERS

Eagles: Hayes, Knight, D. Menzel, Mutch, Redden, Stengle, Toumpas, T. Menzel. **Glenelg:** Snook, Turner, Landt, Partington.

GOALKICKERS

Eagles: D. Menzel 4, T. Menzel, Stengle 3, Mutch 2, Poole, Hayes, Comitogianni. **Glenelg:** Motlop, Hosie, Turner, Allen.

INJURIES

Glenelg: Martini (ankle).

UPMIRES

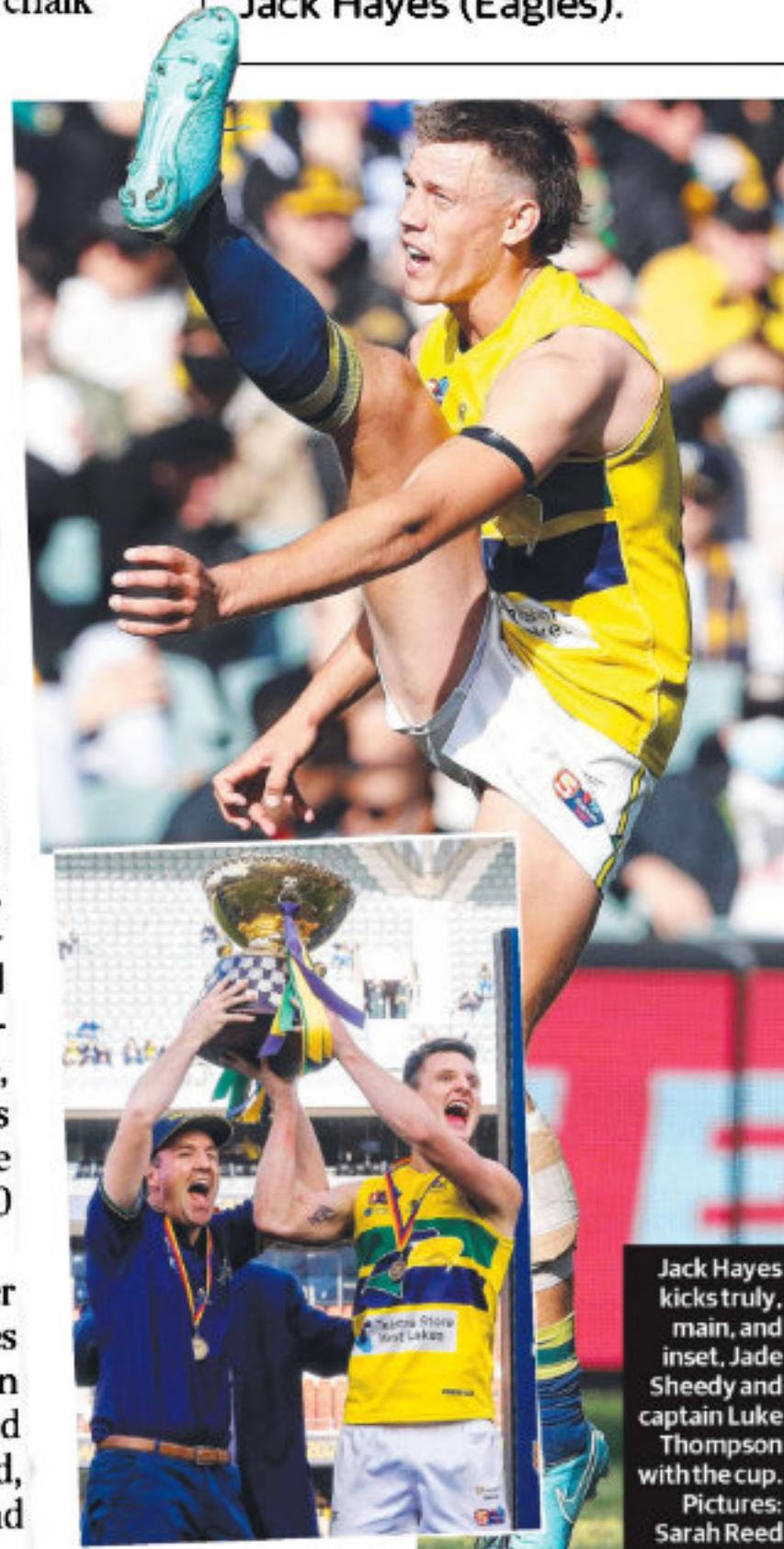
Bryce, Bowen, Harris.

CROWD

22,956 at Adelaide Oval.

JACK OATEY MEDAL

Jack Hayes (Eagles).



Jack Hayes kicks truly, main, and inset, Jade Sheedy and captain Luke Thompson with the cup. Pictures: Sarah Reed

Hayes wins medal with broken leg

ANDREW CAPEL

STAR Eagles key forward Jack Hayes won the Jack Oatey Medal on a broken leg.

The state captain revealed he suffered a small crack in his left tibia at training on Wednesday night but refused to miss the grand final before producing a best-on-ground performance.

Hayes played with his left leg bandaged after teammate Clay Cameron fell on him during a training drill.

His only training after the injury, which will be scanned after the Eagles' premiership

celebrations in the next few days, was a gentle lap of the centre square at Woodville Oval at the captain's run session on Saturday morning.

"I got a little knock on Wednesday night but it's all sweet now, nothing to worry about," Hayes said in the jubilant Eagles changerooms after the 67-point demolition of Glenelg.

"It was a bit unfortunate but I got through all right."

He did better than that, starring with 26 disposals, nine marks, seven clearances and a goal to be voted a unanimous best afield.

The 25-year-old polled the maximum 27 votes from the nine judges to beat next-placed teammates Riley Knight on 11 and Kobe Mutch on seven.

"I wasn't too worried about the injury at the time of the incident but the day after I was," Hayes said.

"I didn't have a great training preparation and it was pretty sore on the morning of the game but I had a few painkillers, which helped, and we ended up winning, so it doesn't matter.

"I was always going to play but there was talk about

changing my role and perhaps playing more forward (rather than helping Jarrad Redden out in the ruck) but once the adrenaline kicked in I couldn't feel it."

While Hayes awaits further scans, club doctors diagnosed him with the "small crack" in the tibia, breaking the bad news to coach Jade Sheedy.

Hayes described winning the Jack Oatey Medal as "an absolute honour".

"Obviously a lot of great players have won this before me, so it is a great honour," Hayes said.

Sheedy's influence to fore as lesson handed to losers

WARREN PARTLAND

JADE Sheedy was a players' player, fully invested in the team ethos, during a highly decorated Sturt career containing a Magarey Medal and premiership.

His deep well of class was complemented with a competitive nature and a refusal to flinch when chasing contested possessions.

When his name was promoted as an SANFL league coach after the 2019 season, he was aggressively pursued by several clubs. It was Woodville-West Torrens that won the race for his signature.

What Sheedy brought to the table in 13 wonderful seasons with the Double Blues has immediately been installed

into the Eagles' nest. He is without doubt a players' coach.

The Eagles had already had that working-class attitude. But watching the likes of ball magnet James Tsitas and Jack Firms run back with the flight of the ball, no hesitation, in the grand-final triumph over Glenelg, and teammates attack every contest where stats aren't registered, proves the influence of Sheedy.

The Joe Sinor smother of a Luke Partington kick in the third quarter all belonged to the Eagles' desperation.

It may have been nerves that gave the Eagles a shaky look in the early minutes. Then they settled into the game plan, taking care of the hard-ball gets with a fierce passion

and harassing opponents constantly. They were disciplined in blocking the Tigers' run.

There were definitely no parting gifts when Daniel and Troy Menzel left Central District at the end of last season.

The brothers will have plenty of Eagles fans, though, given the damage they created early when scoreboard statements were necessary.

The pressure was arguably on the Tigers on Sunday, despite the Eagles being the champions and coming off a second semi-final victory.

The Tigers were undefeated after 17 rounds and many punters had them pencilled in as premiers.

Quite a few times this

season, the Tigers looked out of the game only to show the fight established by previous coach Mark Stone had not been lost under Brett Hand.

After coming from behind to beat Norwood in round 16, Hand warned his players it would be dangerous to think escape acts would just keep happening.

Sheedy had his players too well drilled and prepared to allow that to happen on the state league's biggest stage. The Eagles were relentless.

Even in the second quarter when the Tigers had some momentum, the Eagles kept contesting, kept attacking the ball and body. They gave their opponents nothing for four quarters.



Curran calling it quits

WARREN PARTLAND

GLENELG co-captain Chris Curran has called an end to his outstanding career following the "embarrassing" grand final loss to Woodville-West Torrens at Adelaide Oval.

The veteran defender announced his decision to focus on his medical career to the players immediately after the game and he joins fellow premiership player Marlon Motlop in retirement.

Asked for his reaction to the hefty defeat, Tigers coach Brett Hand responded: "Embarrassed, shattered, disappointed, any adjective."

"They taught us a lesson in finals footy and we did not turn up. Their contested ball was super and we were not up to it. And our fundamentals, I've got no words for our fundamentals and turnovers. We were really poor."

"I did not expect what happened after half-time, the start to the third quarter was just deplorable. There was no sign what was coming."

Hand claimed the Tigers could not have played more poorly, but heaped praise on Eagles coach Jade Sheedy and his players.

Describing the Eagles' defensive tactics as super, he said the opposition pressure was great.

He also revealed brilliant midfielder Matthew Snook had required injections in his neck for the past two games and was playing in pain after being injured against the Eagles in the second semi-final.

While noting the 17 wins to start the season had been a tremendous effort, Hand said the unbeaten streak had "covered up some things".

Hand believes the club's season should not be defined by the loss and the fact the Tigers won the reserves and women's league and were involved in the league, under-18 and under-16 grand finals should be celebrated.

Having been appointed in late December, Hand said there were defensive strategies he had not been able to implement for this season and there would be a heavy emphasis on those tactics in the pre-season.

"I've been saying all year we are not playing our best footy," Hand said. "To make the grand final was a super effort, but there is a lot of work to do to hold the cup up next year."

The Coach's Match Report – Glenelg v Woodville-West Torrens

www.glenelgfc.com.au

Everything was looking good for a positive Sunday afternoon at Adelaide Oval. The Reserves side won their Premiership in the curtain raiser and I know how much the League boys were buoyed by this result. We had enjoyed a good build up to the game, with three good training sessions plus the Captain's run being completed in perfect conditions with a good crowd in attendance.

We started the game well in the first quarter, with our structures and game plan working for the first 20 minutes. We were winning the clearances and inside 50's but unfortunately our forward wasn't working as well as we would have liked and we couldn't capitalise on our entries. We were rushed with some of our decisions and blazed away to the Eagles' spare man. From the 20 minute mark of the first quarter we then let the Eagles score four late goals from free kicks, transition and turnovers, and this flattened the group at quarter time.

We talked about our pressure and the need to absorb their pressure better while also maintaining our composure going forward. The second quarter really became an arm wrestle and I was pleased with the way we were able to keep the

ball inside forward 50, but the Eagles were resilient in their defence and managed to hold us out. With a little bit of luck before half time, Snook could have received a free kick for in the back, which would have given us a bit of reward for our pressure and hard work, but unfortunately this wasn't to be and both sides only had one score for the quarter – the Eagles kicked a goal and we kicked a behind.

Going into half time, the stats were in our favour and I was pleased with our endeavour but unfortunately we were 25-points down on the scoreboard. The mood was reasonably positive in the rooms, knowing that we've had comebacks from this far behind during the year, but it was always going to be hard work in a grand final against a quality outfit like the Eagles.

The start of the third quarter was poor. We gave away a couple of free kicks, but more importantly we made a couple of bad skill errors which provided the Eagles opportunity to kick three goals in the first four minutes. Very quickly, we'd gone from four goals down to seven goals down. The Eagles had upped their intensity and were now winning clearances and on top of the contested possession stats which

really hurt us. They were giving us a lesson in how to play Finals footy and we weren't able to handle it. We coughed the ball up and turned it over on too many occasions. We were unable to get any ascendancy ahead of the ball with the Eagles defence all over our forward line. A few changes were made late in the quarter hoping to provide a bit more intensity around the ball and inside 50 but it was to no avail. After their five minute onslaught the remainder of the quarter was very even on the scoreboard, but we went into the last quarter 43-points down.

Going into the last quarter we talked about taking the game on and leaving no stone unturned, and I think we showed that was how we could play. However our skills weren't good enough and we turned the ball over on far too many occasions, allowing the Eagles more scoring opportunities. It was a very disappointing way to finish the game off with so many errors and allow them to kick easy goals late in the game.

It was a very hollow feeling at the end of the game, but full credit needs to go to the Eagles and the way they played on Sunday afternoon. Their intensity

was at another level compared to our guys and we can't make any excuses for us. It was a disappointing result, and congratulations must go to Jade Sheedy and his team.

We have had an extremely successful campaign this year, with all teams making Grand finals, and although we didn't win premierships in all grades it shows the depth that we have at the club and how the future is looking bright. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Joel Tucker, Brett Todd and Damien Raidis and the Reserves team for their successful campaign and winning the Reserves premiership on Sunday. A special thanks to all of our members and supporters who have been at games this year and supported the team along the way. I know how much the players enjoy having great support behind them at all games.

We will now review the season and look at how we need to improve for 2022 and build on this year to give us the opportunity to go one better next year. Once again, thanks to everyone for your wonderful support this season and I look forward to seeing you again in season 2022.

Brett Hand, Senior Coach

Adelaide Oval, Sunday 3rd October, 3:00pm

Woodville-West Torrens	5.2	6.2	10.5	15.9	99
Glenelg	2.2	2.3	3.4	4.8	32

Glenelg

Goal Kickers: M.Allen 1.1, M.Motlop 1.1, L.Hosie 1.0, B.Turner 1.0, J.Hannath 0.1, L.McBean 0.1, T.Pink 0.1

Disposals: D.Landt 26, M.Snook 22, L.Partington 21, B.Turner 21, M.Proud 18, B.Stretch 18, A.Bradley 17, C.Curran 17, J.Hannath 14, M.Allen 13, D.Bailey 13, S.Durbin 12

Woodville-West Torrens

Goal Kickers: D.Menzel 4.2, T.Menzel 3.1, T.Stengle 3.1, K.Mutch 2.0, J.Comitogianni 1.0, J.Hayes 1.2, A.Poole 1.0, B.Jungfer 0.1, R.Knight 0.1

Disposals: R.Knight 27, J.Hayes 26, K.Mutch 26, J.Toumpas 25, J.Tsitais 21, J.Lonergan 19, K.Pudney 19, A.Poole 17, J.Sinor 17, L.Thompson 16, J.Comitogianni 15, J.Redden 15, B.Jungfer 14

Stengle cleared, Tigers settled for grand decider

ANDREW CAPEL

WOODVILLE-West Torrens is adamant star small forward Tyson Stengle will play in Sunday's SANFL grand final against Glenelg.

Former Crow Stengle, who has kicked 41 goals this season, was restricted to light duties at training last week because of hamstring soreness as the reigning premier enjoyed the week's break.

But scans have cleared the dynamic matchwinner of any muscle damage and chief executive Luke Powell on Thursday night said he would definitely line up in Sunday's clash as the Eagles close in on

consecutive flags for the first time in their history.

Premiership coach Jade Sheedy said Stengle, who played 16 AFL games in four seasons for Richmond and Adelaide before being cut by the Crows this year following three off-field indiscretions in eight months, had pulled up sore after kicking the winning goal in the four-point second semi-final win against the Tigers a fortnight ago.

"He just had some real tightness in his hamstring," Sheedy said.

"It felt like a little strain, so we had it scanned, but there was nothing there.

"He had the week off, just

doing some light running on the sidelines last week, as we tried to get him right."

Stengle has kicked six goals in the Eagles' two finals wins this season.

Sheedy was forced into making one change to his winning second semi line-up, with dual premiership utility Matthew Goldsworthy already ruled out with hamstring tendon damage.

Defender Rory Lehmann, returning from his own hamstring injury, Mitch Hardie, Dane McFarlane and Jake Von Bertouch have been added to an extended 25-man squad on Thursday night.

Glenelg has named the

same 22 that beat South Adelaide in last Friday night's preliminary final, while adding Will Chandler, who missed the game through concussion, and 2019 premiership players Brad McCarthy and Jonty Scharenberg to its extended squad of 25.

Tigers coach Brett Hand said 2019 Magarey Medallist Luke Partington, who made his comeback from a six-week hamstring injury against the Panthers, pulled up well and would be better for the run.

Partington, who gives the Tigers' midfield an injection of class and explosiveness, had 19 disposals, four clearances and kicked a goal against South.

ANDREW CAPEL

THE fall from grace was dramatic.

Alex Martini went from being a rising 18-year-old star who had made his league debut for Glenelg, shone for SA at the AFL under-18 championship, attended the draft combine and had nine AFL clubs show keen interest in him, to playing only seven league games in the next three years.

The 181cm running machine, who came through the Tigers' junior system, became so disenchanted under 2019 premiership coach Mark Stone that he considered walking away from the club he loved and the SANFL altogether.

"At the end of last year I said to 'Stoney' in my exit interview that I'm really not sure what I want to do next year," Martini, now 22, said. "I told him I had a few things I had to weigh up, whether that was changing SANFL clubs or playing local footy, they both went through my mind."

But after "a few conversations with some of the senior boys at the club", Martini, who played nine league games in his debut year under Matthew Lokan in 2017, decided to stay at Brighton Rd and "focus more on the things I could control rather than worry about someone else's expectations".

Now Martini is a mainstay of the Glenelg team.

He has played all 20 games for the Tigers this season and been described by new coach Brett Hand, who replaced Brisbane-bound Stone just prior to Christmas, as an "unsung hero" in the club's spectacular season, which saw it win its first 17 games on the way to the minor premiership and advance to Sunday's grand final by beating South Adelaide in the preliminary final.

A change of coach and serious pre-season injury to Glen-



Glenelg's Alex Martini at Glenelg Oval this week ahead of Sunday's SANFL grand final. Picture: Mark Brake

EAGLES v GLENELG			
GRAND FINAL, ADELAIDE OVAL, SUNDAY, 3PM			
Stengle 31, D. Menzel 23, Loneragan 1	F	Motlop 8, McBean 1, Bailey 9	
Poole 52, Hayes 12, T. Menzel 22	HF	Hosie 20, Reynolds 7, Pink 32	
Pudney 37, Tsitas 4, Mutch 5	C	Allen 22, Agnew 6, Curran 5	
Cameron 19, Thompson 6, Toumpas 2	HB	Landt 30, Durdin 12, Martini 16	
Beecken 18, Giuffreda 45, Rowland 24	B	Virgin 29, Proud 19, Bradley 11	
Redden 55, Sinor 35, Knight 7	R	Hannath 44, Turner 27, Snook 3	
(from) Firms 39, Comitogianni 3,	Int	(from) Partington 10, Kluske 26,	
Jungfer 47, McFarlane 9, Hardie 28,		Stretch 18, Kuller 17, Scharenberg 2,	
Lehmann 42, Von Bertouch 44		McCarthy 14, Chandler 36	
Hardie, Lehmann,	In	Chandler, McCarthy, Scharenberg	
McFarlane, Von Bertouch			
Goldsworthy (inj)	Out		

elg hard nut and 2019 premiership defender Aaron Joseph helped transform Martini from playmaking backman to lockdown specialist tasked with nullifying the opposition's most dangerous small forward.

"The first two months of pre-season I was training as a wingman/midfielder and then Joseph went down with a syn-desmosis injury and 'Handy' came up to me and said, 'we're looking for a lockdown small defender and your name came up in a few meetings I've had with some of our leaders, how would you feel about doing that role?'" Martini recalled. "I said 'no worries, if it's going to

get me a game, bloody oath, I am more than happy to do it."

Martini hasn't looked back.

He has taken to his new role like a duck to water, blanketing some of the competition's best small forwards, including Panthers' state forward pocket Eamon Wilkinson, who he kept scoreless in the preliminary final while laying 11 strong tackles in Glenelg's bruising 28-point win.

"If you had told me at the end of last year that I would play every game this year and be involved in a grand final I would have said you were dreaming," said Martini, who played only one league game

last season and was trialed in various positions in the reserves, including through the midfield and up forward.

"It's been an amazing turnaround and I've loved how things have panned out.

"I've always had confidence that I could play at this level but after a couple of years in the reserves and not getting a look in you start to doubt yourself and it can become a bit of a downward spiral.

"I needed some opportunities and Handy's been good at providing me with them."

Martini will be given the huge responsibility of stopping brilliant Eagles small forward Tyson Stengle in the grand final – two weeks after he kicked the second semi-final matchwinner on him following a powerful tackle laid by Magarey medallist James Tsitas.

"He's a very good player who probably had the better of me in the semi-final, but I'm a competitive guy and I'm keen to get one back on him," Martini said.

GRAHAM



CORNES

Making a stand for emotion of local footy

DESPITE the hype of the AFL grand final and its aftermath, our SANFL grand final is worthy of its own day and its own stand-alone timeslot.

For the one thing our SANFL finals series has had that the AFL finals lacked was a contest.

Oh, and better umpiring. In the last two weeks of the AFL finals series, which are supposed to be the best matches of the season, the average winning margin in the prelims and the grand final was 76 points.

Of course, Melbourne supporters are not going to complain but football administrations covet contests where the final result is in doubt until the final moments.

The AFL's constant tinkering with the laws and the introduction of new laws are probably to blame.

The 'stand' rule and the 6-6-6 starting positions were instigated to improve scoring and overcome the negative tactics that had stifled the game but as with any reform the outcome is hard to predict and the pendulum often swings too far on the way back. Really, is there anyone who seriously thinks the new 'stand' rule has enhanced the game?

Fortunately, the SANFL held its nerve and didn't bend to AFL pressure and adopt those same rules.

Our 'last touch out of bounds' rule sets us apart and while some of us criticised that rule when it was introduced, at least there is clarity in deciding whether or not a player tried hard enough to keep the ball in play. The AFL umpires simply guess or arbitrarily decide, much to the frustration and anger of players and supporters alike.

Today's two SANFL grand finalists are the best teams of 2021. If the second semi-final is any indication, it will be a tough, fierce contest.

It's Glenelg's centenary year and despite the significance of such an event and despite the

team's record-breaking minor round, the Bays are not outright favourites. In the second semi-final, the Eagles gave them a football lesson in pressure and discipline.

You would hope Glenelg come to the grand final better prepared but the preliminary final against South Adelaide was unconvincing.

An 18 year-old wunderkind nearly beat them off his own boot.

For the Eagles it's been the perfect preparation.

Having to fight hard in the last half of the season to secure the double chance then earning the week's rest while the preliminary finalists battle it out was ideal. Plus there is definitely something special about their coach, Jade Sheedy. He was our state coach this season and I was fortunate enough to observe him at close hand during that team's preparation. He is most impressive and having lost so many players from last year's team he has worked wonders to get his side back to a successive grand final.

Woodville West-Torrens has a relatively short history. The amalgamation of the two western suburbs clubs happened in 1991. Only their true supporters can tell if the new club has truly captured the spirit and heritage of West Torrens and Woodville but the new club has enjoyed relative success. The Eagles have played in 11 grand finals and

won four of them. It's a slightly better strike rate than Glenelg's five from 18.

Tigers fans know all about grand final disappointments.

Five from 18 is about a 28 per cent success rate. And that's over 100 years. Port fans have dined out for decades on that old joke: "How do you win a grand final?" they ask. "Play Glenelg," they smirk. I was never quick enough to respond that Port has lost more grand finals than it's won. Or that two of Glenelg's five grand final wins were against Port Adelaide. Or that Port has lost the last eight grand finals it has

The Eagles' Dane McFarlane and Glenelg's Sam Durdin battle for the ball as the standout SANFL teams of the season slug it out at Woodville Oval and, below, Tiger great Peter Carey with the 1985 premiership cup. Picture: Morgan Sette



played at Adelaide Oval. Now it's too late, because that hybrid of a team that wears the prison bar jumpers in the SANFL operates under a different set of rules and circumstances.

Peter Carey, the club's legendary player and now president has a smart response to those occasional jibes he gets from old Port players and administrators about Glenelg's grand final record. "Hey, you do realise I played in the same number of premierships as Russell Ebert." It's hard to believe but true. 'Super' has always had a smart mouth.

At Glenelg, we hold our breath come grand final day. We've been devastated too often by grand final losses. Yes, we won in 2019 under Mark Stone, a professional coach who brought to the team a demanding level of professionalism, but he left on the eve of the season to take up an AFL position in Brisbane. Glenelg's season seemed wrecked when seemingly out of nowhere Brett Hand appeared and seamlessly took charge.

A record-breaking season of 17 consecutive wins was stymied in the last round by – you guessed it – a Port team bolstered by AFL-listed players but Hand has impressed everyone at Brighton Road. His calm demeanour instils confidence – in his players at least. For the rest of the true Glenelg believers we've been disappointed too many times to take the result for granted.

I played in eight grand finals for Glenelg and coached another five, without really understanding the turmoil of uncertainty we put our

supporters through. Nerves or lack of confidence was never an issue. Perhaps that was the problem.

The great Rod Laver, a Grand Slam tennis winner – the best player of his generation – once said he never took to the court without some doubt about the outcome in his mind. He felt that small degree of uncertainty brought out the best in him. However, footy coaches aren't supposed to think like that. Portray the image of confidence at all times to the players and to the public, regardless of what's happening inside.

But it's a grand final and amazing things happen. Unlikely players step up. Like Adrian Sette who came off the bench and immediately kicked three goals in the 1990 Port-Glenelg epic. Jordan Foote won last year's Jack Oatey Medal with an unbelievable second quarter. Four generations of his family had played for the Eagles, so perhaps it wasn't so unlikely but he would not have been the favourite for the Jack Oatey Medal. It's one of football's great honours.

So the best of SA football is showcased to the rest of the country this afternoon. We play second fiddle to the AFL but it's our game and we should be proud of it. Glenelg in another grand final. Fingers crossed.

