

EAGLES SOAR INTO DECIDER

WARREN PARTLAND

WOODVILLE-West Torrens is the first side into the SANFL grand final after surviving a dramatic fightback from minor premier Glenelg on Saturday night.

The Eagles were seemingly in the comfort zone with a 29-point buffer at three-quarter time of the second semi-final, only for the Tigers to produce another stunning fightback in the final term at Adelaide Oval.

The Tigers grabbed the lead late in the battle, Tyson Stengle put the Eagles back in front with his third goal and the game ended with the ball being bombed deep into the Tigers' attack.

The Eagles will confront the winner of the preliminary final clash between the Tigers and South Adelaide in the title decider.

The Tigers needed less than a minute to impact on the scoreboard when dangerous forward Lachie Hosie ran onto a loose ball and goaled.

With a spot in the season finale on the line, the early intensity matched

the rich reward on offer and both teams were up for the challenge.

Daniel Menzel nailed an outstanding goal from the boundary 11 minutes into the contest and his brother Troy got into the act with a major to match the effort of Ken Farmer Medallist Liam McBean for the Tigers.

As the opening quarter lengthened, so too did the control of the Eagles.

They were claiming the hard-earned possessions and constantly charging into attack.

There was a glaring statistic which advertised their territorial dominance, a 13-1 inside 50 count in their favour for an extended period.

No more evident was the Eagles' supremacy than Kobe Mutch's goal 23 minutes into the term.

Ben Jungster earned a free kick when he tackled Tigers' ruckman Jack Hannath, before Jack Hayes pulled down a terrific contested mark. He then hit Mutch with a pin-point kick.

When former Crow Tyson Stengle goaled a minute later, the Eagles had

the Tigers well and truly under the pump.

The concerns for Tigers' coach Brett Hand grew further early in the second quarter when Luke Beecken kicked a goal.

The Eagles continued to win the 50-50 balls and their well-planned structures disrupted the opposition movement, denying the Tigers smooth transition from defence.

Everything the Tigers did was under pressure and that trend stretched into the third term, the Eagles refusing to relax the heat.

Eagles veteran Matthew Goldsworthy made life even more difficult for the Tigers two minutes into the quarter when he goaled, before finding Daniel Menzel in front of goal with a brilliant pass.

The former Geelong forward ended the night with four goals.

The Eagles constantly had the answers.

Darcy Bailey cut the deficit to 22 points when he toed through a goal, only for Stengle bag a late goal.

Needing a response, the Tigers

	EAGLES 5.2 7.5 11.8 13.8	86
	GLENELG 2.1 5.2 7.3 13.4	82

PARTLAND'S BEST

Eagles: Tsitas, Sinor, D. Menzel, Knight, Poole, Hayes. **Tigers:** Snook, Turner, Durdin, Landt, Allen.

GOALS

Eagles: D.Menzel 4; Stengle 3; T.Menzel 2; Beecken, Goldsworthy, Lonergan, Mutch. **Tigers:** McBean 3; Allen, Bailey, Hosie, Reynolds 2; Chandler, Turner.

INJURIES

Eagles: Goldsworthy (hamstring). **Tigers:** Chandler (concussion).

CROWD

10,104 at Adelaide Oval.

moved defender Sam Durdin into attack.

And the fightback came, the momentum swinging completely in favour of the Tigers.

by Zac Milbank

www.sanfl.com.au

Woodville-West Torrens ensured it will have the opportunity to defend its crown after surviving a stirring Glenelg comeback by four points in a thrilling Second Semi-Final at the Adelaide Oval.

Buoyed by their pressure-packed Qualifying Final win against Norwood, the Eagles brought the same heat early in the contest en route to booking a berth in the 2021 Statewide Super League Grand Final.

From midway through the first quarter, the Eagles dictated terms as they ramped up the pressure on the minor premier whilst also defending space with precision.

Ken Farmer Medallist Liam McBean gave his side the lead with his first goal of the game but from that point, the Eagles clicked into gear while generating 13 of the next 14 inside 50 entries.

When Eagles defender Luke Beecken pounced on a loose ball to goal impressively on the run, his side suddenly led by 25 points nearly four minutes into the second term.

The Eagles appeared headed for a comfortable victory before Glenelg stormed home in the final term, booting 6.1 to the Eagles 2.0.

Glenelg hit the front when Luke Reynolds converted his chest mark 19 minutes into the fourth quarter but fellow forward Lachie Hosie was

only able to extend the advantage by a point when he missed his set shot less than two minutes later.

Livewire Eagle Tyson Stengle timed his third goal to perfection when he made the most of a second chance to snap from 20m, putting his side back in front by the final margin of four points.

Glenelg kept coming though, with regular defender Sam Durdin, who switched into attack in the final term, taking a mark inside 50m just after the final siren had sounded.

Eagle James Tsitas collected a team-high 25 touches to shade teammate Riley Knight with 24 while Joseph Sinor collected 21 to go with his nine tackles.

Daniel Menzel was lively with four goals as Stengle booted three and Troy Menzel two for the Grand Final-bound Eagles.

Now set to face South Adelaide in the Preliminary Final, Glenelg will be hoping Magarey Medallist returns from a hamstring strain after missing the Second Semi-Final.

Jack Oatey Medallist Matthew Snook fought hard all night for 29 disposals and seven clearances and Brett Turner was a key instigator for the Bays in the second half with 23 disposals, 10 tackles and a goal.

McBean booted three goals for the Tigers while Reynolds, Hosie, Darcy Bailey and Matt Allen kicked two goals each.

Adelaide Oval, Saturday 18th September, 7:15pm

Woodville-West Torrens	5.2	7.5	11.8	13.8	86
Glenelg	2.1	5.2	7.3	13.4	82

Glenelg

Goal Kickers: L.McBean 3.1, L.Hosie 2.2, M.Allen 2.0, D.Bailey 2.0, L.Reynolds 2.0, W.Chandler 1.1, B.Turner 1.0

Disposals: D.Landt 31, M.Snook 29, B.Turner 23, C.Curran 17, S.Durdin 17, M.Virgin 17, M.Allen 16, B.McCarthy 16, B.Stretch 14, J.Hannath 13, M.Motlop 13, M.Proud 13, B.Agnew 12, A.Bradley 12, L.Hosie 12, L.Reynolds 11, D.Bailey 10, W.Chandler 10, A.Martini 10

Woodville-West Torrens

Goal Kickers: D.Menzel 4.1, T.Stengle 3.2, T.Menzel 2.1, M.Goldsworthy 1.1, L.Beecken 1.0, J.Lonergan 1.0, K.Mutch 1.0, A.Poole 0.1, K.Pudney 0.1

Disposals: J.Tsitas 26, R.Knight 24, J.Sinor 21, A.Poole 18, K.Pudney 18, K.Mutch 16, S.Rowland 16, J.Lonergan 15, J.Toumpas 15, J.Comitogianni 13, J.Firms 13, J.Hayes 13