



Veteran Sea Eagle Steve Menzies is in devastating form. He was awarded a trophy after he became the second highest try scorer in league history last weekend. He is pictured with Robbie Delange from Delange Commercial. Picture: SAVER/EDOUARD/REUTERS

Eagles fans relishing Ox and Beaver form

A SUPER September for Manly's little general Matt Offord can propel the 176-game first grade veteran into the Australian club for the October Test against New Zealand.

The Australian selectors are thinking seriously of switching superstar Jonathan Thurston to five-eighth for the Test match and are considering Offord and Gait Court's Scott Pryor as the Test halfback.

Against the Bunnies it was evident that Offord was the "best" and ran the show accordingly.

He lined up his attack brilliantly to keep the Souths defence guessing and was very strong in defence. His five from five conversions completed a strong match where he showed numerous courage to continue in the match despite suffering an injury in a collision with Souths lock Ben Rogers.

Offord has never lost the desire



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to play representative football but has a number of freshish incidents in his attempts in the past during his distinguished career which has seen him score 1200 points in his 176 matches.

The last Eagles skipper says he is content to lead well from the front in next Saturday's sudden death game against the winner of the Cowboys/Warriors final to be played in Greenville tomorrow.

Offord is capped Manly team mates Brett Kline, Jamie Lyon,

Brett Stewart and Anthony Watson are in line for Test selection.

"Ox has been a regular for the past two seasons and is the form prop of the premiership while Jamie Lyon is an important player and is relishing the big end of season matches," Offord said. "Stewart and Watson are probably the form players in the competition in their respective positions."

Q&A

Of all the highlights the Sea Eagles have delivered this season has there been a sweeter moment than the 76th minute last Saturday in front of a roaring home crowd at SHED?

A. Nothing Brett Stewart pace down the June Try ground and backline like an Etonal missile and over the head of Steve Menzies, kicked like a message from above (I assume, indeed, Stewart kicks ahead and infield a split second

before he is crashed over the sideline and back up to see the headmaster signal with the cue to the ball for the last try of the final triumph.

It was a sight for the Seaside faithful to witness an abjectly poor of approval and yet the faithful reach on an incredible sight of support for the maroon and whites.

The players - in a man - were stunned with the passion displayed by the fans who came from all over Australia in the call to arms.

Steve Menzies again, delivered at his favour the ground. It was his 10th try double at Brookvale.

It was his 22nd try in 17 games against Souths over 15 years.

It was the seventh time in the last seven games against the red and green that he has scored.

It was his 50th try in 117 games at home. It was surreal.