

# ROOSTER REMINISCES

*A look back at a memorable match from each round*

## Round 12

**Season 2006 (Friday 23 June)**



*Dean Howard kicking the Roosters forward in the 2006 clash against Sturt.  
Newcomer Leigh Ryswyk and the helmeted Luke Ivens watch on.*

Split Enz supported the “History Never Repeats” adage back in 1981. In 2006 and late 2007 North and Sturt will prove this certainly *isn't* the case when it comes to football when two games would prove very similar against these two club at the same venue. The second game will appear in another column later but the first game was held in Round 12, 2006. North were in full flight perched on top of the premierships ladder. The opposition were holding the table up. At half-time you'd swear it was the other way around. But then a lad named **Daniel Motlop** put on a show and led the club to a memorable victory.

### ***The Background***

As a club North was surging ahead with all guns blazing as they came towards the half-way mark in the 2006 season with seven wins and two losses. Despite 14 new players debuting within the first few games North were flying high. Recruits **Dean Howard** and **Brett O'Hara**, combined with newcomer **Nathan Lonie** and youngsters **Andrew McIntyre** and **Shane Edwards** were building the club into a threatening force while **Daniel Motlop**, with a change of AFL clubs, returned to North Adelaide for the first time since his debut season of 2000. Motlop had proved instrumental and crucial in the previous three games since he was dropped by Port including a five-goal outing in their previous week's 119-point defeat against West. The Friday night clash against Sturt was to be a non-event with a walk-up victory. How wrong they were. Thank the heavens North had Motlop to set the wheels in motion.

### ***The Match***

The North versus Sturt Friday night meeting at Adelaide Oval was surprisingly the second time for the season (*you can read the first clash in this year's Round 4 Rooster Reminiscences*). North were placed on the back foot immediately when their opposition seized North's lack of intensity and slack mindset to establish a handy five-goal buffer by the first break. The misery continued for North and their supporters during the second term when the margin went as wide as 40-points before a couple of late goals was some minor comfort to the red-and-whites. Still it left Sturt to enter half time with a commanding 33-point lead with North looking like the second rate team and Sturt the classy and powerful club.

But within 30 minutes this was all about to change... well give it 15 minutes. In fact it would appear the teams simply changed jumpers when you consider the 180-degree reversal of football

that was witnessed by both teams after the break. Whatever was said during the half-time break by the revved-up coach **Andrew Jarman** unleashed the sleeping giant and North blew the third term alight with the similar scintillating football witnessed in previous matches.

North needed someone to ignite them into action and it was the captivating **Daniel Motlop** – rarely sighted in the first half – who led the North counter-attack. With a mesmerizing football performance that befuddled the Sturt defence and brought the subdued North supporters into raptures it was football artistry in the air and on the ground. In all the mayhem – particularly in the first 15 minutes of the quarter – North kicked 9.7 to Sturt's 2.2 and suddenly found themselves 14 points ahead at three-quarter time. The *Sunday Mail* exuberantly elaborated on the quarter and Motlop's impact:

- “A Daniel Motlop-inspired North Adelaide pulled off a remarkable escape act to condemn Sturt to also-ran status this season...”
- “The amazing Motlop conjured a brilliant sleight-of-hand – and foot – performance in the third quarter that made a mockery of human movement. After just seven unremarkable disposals in the first half Motlop moved into another sphere to pick up eight kicks, take three classy marks, give a handball that resulted in a goal to Matthew Campbell and kick 4.2 off his own boot in about 30 minutes. It was simply magical. He rotated from the goalsquare to the midfield in the second half to menace the Blues with bursts of weaving turns and blissful skills to pick up one more goal to end with 5.5 for the night in a game-breaking display.”

Sturt were suddenly deflated and any confidence they created early in the match was nowhere to be seen as North continued to march towards an (as it turned out) comfortable 41-point victory after a further six-goal to two last quarter. The win maintained North's position on top of the table and a definite threat to the season's premiership. As the *Standard* described on North's brazen turnaround:

- “North Adelaide is starting to look like a genuine premiership threat, stamping out Sturt's first-half dominance in only 15 minutes of inspired football on Friday night.”

Motlop's performance was simply a joy to watch. Like **Darren Jarman** and **Barrie Robran** before him his incredible ball skills was just Aussie Rules football at its best as he finished the night with 16 kicks, five marks and 5.5 on the scoreboard. It was his 4<sup>th</sup> game for North for the season in which he kicked 18 goals. Not surprisingly he would be reinstated to the Port Power AFL side the following week and would not return to North for the remainder of the season.

As exciting as his performance was Motlop was not awarded the three Magarey Medal votes by the umpires. This went to will-o'-the-wisp wingman **Scott Bamford** for his 26 kicks, seven marks and six handballs that saw him continually break the lines to provide the forwards regular and perfect opportunities. Motlop received two votes while another nippy line-breaker in young **Matthew Campbell** was another headache for Sturt with four goals and five tackles from his role across half-forward.

Other significant contributors to the victory were **Luke Ivens**, who nonchalantly collected an incredible 33 disposals while tirelessly proving an obstacle across half-back, **Nick Gill** providing a focal point to channel their forward entries as he collected 14 kicks, 12 marks and a typical 2.3 score chart while tough midfielders **Dean Howard** (24 possessions) and **Matt Krieg** (27) took charge around the stoppages.

It was a once-in-a-decade type of comeback. One that you rarely witness. Well normally that is the case but we are North Adelaide and they produced the same “out-of-the-clouds” comeback against the same team and the same ground just over 12 months later when trailing by an even larger margin... but that is for another time.

#### Stats Fact

- As big as the comeback was it didn't break any major comeback records. Their 30-point quarter-time deficit was their 10<sup>th</sup> biggest deficit before winning while the 33-point half-time margin was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest deficit before victory;

- The 30-point deficit at quarter time is North's largest comeback at Adelaide Oval;
- North's 9.7 third quarter was their 3<sup>rd</sup> highest at Adelaide Oval against any team;
- In games against Sturt North's 9.7 was their second highest 3<sup>rd</sup>-quarter score in any match.

### Round 12 Stats Fact

- North's 19.20 (134) is their 8<sup>th</sup> highest score kicked in this round and the 9.7 third quarter frenzy is the most for the quarter in any Round 12 match;
- North's 20 behinds is their third highest (equalled).

### Match Details:

North	2.3	4.8	13.15	<b>19.20</b>	<b>134</b>
Sturt	7.3	10.5	12.7	<b>14.9</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Ground:</b>	Adelaide Oval		<b>Crowd:</b>	2,985	

**Best Players:** Motlop, Bamford, Ivens, O'Hara, Howard, Gill, Younie, M. Campbell, Krieg

**Scorers:** Motlop 5.5, M. Campbell 4.0, Ladhams, 3.4, Younie 3.1, Gill 2.3, Gatto 1.1, Ivens 1.0, Howard 0.1, R. Ebert 0.1, Martin 0.1, Ryswyk 0.1 rushed 0.2

### The Team:

F: Daniel Motlop, Daniel Wakelin, Heath Younie  
 HF: Matthew Krieg, Nick Gill, Matthew Campbell  
 C: Leigh Ryswyk, Darryl Wintle, Scott Bamford  
 HB: Luke Ivens, Shane Schubert, Ryan Nye  
 B: Daniel Ebert, Andrew McIntyre, Shaun Gatto  
 1R: Brett O'Hara, Dean Howard, Chris Ladhams  
 Res: Tim Martin (debut), Ricky Ebert, Steven Koops



*Winners are grinners. Debutant Tim Martin (with Mudguts) enjoying the club song after the great comeback. Joining in the celebrations are (l-r): Darryl Wintle, Brett O'Hara, Chris Ladhams (obscured), Shaun Gatto, Ricky Ebert and Shane Schubert*

*Thanks to Wedgie for allowing use of the photos*

**David O'Hara**  
**History Committee**