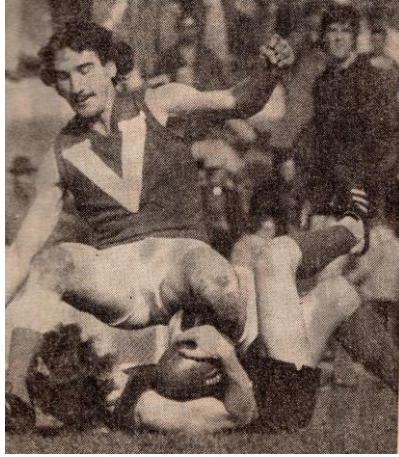


ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 18

Season 1974 (Saturday 3 August)



Neil Sachse in a tussle against Norwood in Round 18, 1974

As the 1946 match in last week's *Rooster Reminisces* showcased a great come-from-behind victory is always a nice way to earn a victory and 28 years (and one round later) North completed another victory-from-the-jaws-of-defeat when an unexpected yet astonishing final quarter countered for three quarters or tough, close football. In the books it shows a win but not how it was won – and how coach Mike Patterson's last quarter changes in positions and game plan were the underlying reasons for the remarkable comeback victory.

The Background

After four consecutive finals series, three Grand Finals and two premierships North's 1974 season was a harsh reality check for the red-and-whites as they faced the new dawn and a time of player adjustments. With many of the champion and premiership players retired, moved on or at the end of their careers North relied on the scattered list of brilliant players who continued to play while developing a new breed of players for success. However this would take time and North's 1974 season showed that there was going to be some time before North can reach the dizzy heights it once held. Sitting 7th North were at the crossroads after a meek performance against West the previous week while their upcoming foe Norwood were comfortably sitting third and deep within the top teams. With names like **Barrie Robran**, **Barry Stringer**, **Terry von Bertouch** and **Rodney Robran** mixed with youngster **Trevor Hill** showing great promise North still had the talent to be competitive on their day.

The Match

Both teams came out in an attacking manner with 24 scoring shots resulting in a first term frenzy. Late goals by Norwood in the time-on period gave them the small lead at the first break with Norwood's inaccurate 8.8 giving them an 18-point break at the first change. **Barrie Robran** was in everything and **Rodney Robran**, **David Marsh** and **Charlie Payne** were on the scoreboard early.

- “The first term had been a cracker, with the sides having 24 scoring shots and the good crowd was kept on its toes by a 14-goal feast” – Sunday Mail.

Norwood's lead was extended in a more “dour affair” second term with North regretting poor misses late in the term to close the margin at half-time less than the resulting 20-points.

Norwood's game hit its heights in a powerful third term as they constantly attacked their forward lines with only some late misses leaving the margin 34-points at the final break.

Something needed to be done in the North Adelaide camps to change the flow of the match. The *Sunday Mail* highlighted what occurred:

- “However, **Mike “Swampy” Patterson** made whole-sale changes at the last break, throwing caution to the wind and everything into attack. **Barrie Robran** went on to the ball, **Neil Sachse** took over a half-forward flank, and **Rodney Robran** moved to centre half-forward. All the moves clicked as the Roosters set up power points all over the ground. Captain Robran came right back into the game after two quiet quarters and brother Rodney grabbed everything that came his way against a timid Norwood defence. After a quiet first five minutes the Roosters ran riot – **Rodney Robran** kicking three goals in five minutes and Payne chiming in with two in even time. By half way through the term the Redlegs' big lead had been overcome, and North were stampeding to victory.”

The final quarter was not expected by anyone witnessing the match as North broke the game open with an inaccurate but match-winning 8.10 quarter against Norwood's solitary one goal to give the home side an amazing 16-point victory. The near 8,000 crowd was in disbelief in North's snatching of the game left North fans celebrating and Norwood fans bewildered.

The Advertiser chimed in on the last quarter display:

- “Last week at Richmond North looked like an aged hack. On Saturday, particularly in the home stretch it looked like Bernborough (respected race-horse) in full cry. The transition was nothing short of unbelievable. Players who just seven days earlier looked set for the country or Amateur League ranks... suddenly regained their status as league footballers;”
- “And as their stature grew, so did their confidence. A squash ball could have been used in the last term and North would still have had 18 scoring shots to three;”
- “The North knockers have disappeared. The Roosters yesterday staged one of the best last quarter revivals seen in SA football” – *Sunday Mail*.

Rodney Robran was named North's best with 17 kicks, 11 big grabs and 6.2 in front of goals completing a tidy all-round game. **Barrie Robran**, in his second match back after injuring his knee earlier in the season in the State game, was also pivotal with 24 touches, six marks while acting full-forward **Charlie Payne** collected 5.2. *The Advertiser* highlighted some other significant performers for North:

- “The North crowd was beside itself as **Rex Eatts**, who despite his amusing attempts to kick goals, had a wonderful day on the ball, **Trevor Hill**, a player of the future, **Mike Eichner**, **Terry von Bertouch** and **Barry Stringer** and others pushed forward relentlessly.”

Unfortunately North couldn't maintain the last quarter performance and would lose the remaining four matches and finish 7th on the premiership ladder at the end of the season.

Stats Fact

- North's 34-point three-quarter time deficit is their second biggest comeback margin against any team at any ground. It is also North's second best comeback from three-quarter time at Prospect;
- Norwood's 16.15 (111) is their equal Highest Score against North and their highest at Prospect;
- Norwood's 8.8 first term is their second best effort against North and their best at Prospect;
- North's 6.2 first term equals their best first quarter against Norwood at Prospect while the 8.10 last quarter is their second best effort against Norwood and their best against Norwood at Prospect;
- North's 10 behinds in the final quarter is their most kicked in a quarter against Norwood
- The 34-point three-quarter time comeback margin is the biggest against Norwood;

Round 18 Stats Fact

- Norwood's 16.15 (111) is the second highest losing score against North;
- Norwood's first term 8.8 is the second highest against North;
- North's final quarter 8.10 matches the 9.4 (in 1991) as their highest for the round;
- North's 19 behinds for the match is the second highest achieved while the 10 behinds in the last quarter equals the record for the round

Match Details:

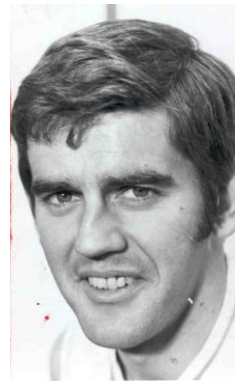
North	6.2	8.6	10.9	18.19	127
Norwood	8.8	11.8	15.13	16.15	111
Ground:	Prospect Oval			Crowd:	7,978

Best Players: R. Robran, B. Robran, Marsh, Payne, Eatts, N. Sachse, Stringer

Scorers: R. Robran 6.2, Payne 5.2, Marsh 2.0, von Bertouch 2.0, Gum 1.2, Eichner 1.1, Stringer 1.0, Eatts 0.5, N. Sachse 0.2, B. Robran 0.1, rushed 0.4

The Team:

F: Rex Eatts, Charlie Payne, David Marsh
HF: Rodney Robran, Barrie Robran, Garry Gum
C: Trevor Hill, Michael Eichner, Barry Stringer
HB: Alan Howard, Bronte Mumford, Peter Schulz
B: Kevin Lovie (*debut*), Terry Collins, Brenton Anderson
1R: John Sachse, Neil Sachse, Terry von Bertouch
Res: Patrick McCann, Doug Zeuner (*debut*)



Two important players in North's victory of Norwood – Trevor Hill and Charlie Payne

David O'Hara
History Committee