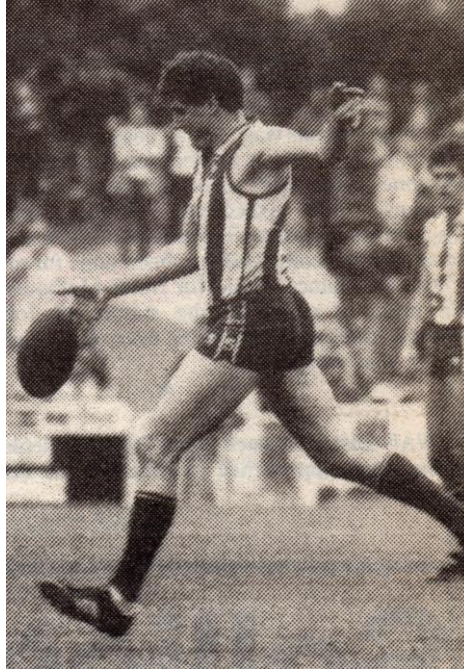


ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 22

Season 1987 (Saturday 5 September)



Full forward John Roberts (with Craig Burton looking on) kicking his 100th goal for the 1987 season in Round 22, 1987

Season 1987 will remain in the NAFC chronicles as one of the most successful, satisfying and triumphant seasons in the club's 140+ year history. However when Round 22 – the final minor round game of the season – had arrived North still had nothing to vindicate at that point except for positioning themselves perfectly on top of the premiership table and a chance to amend the previous Grand Final losses. Meeting Woodville at Prospect wasn't going to be the Match-of-the-Round yet it commenced the start of some important individual achievements that would set the wheels in motion for an enjoyable September. The man whose afternoon was about to change forever... John Roberts!

The Background

North had a point to prove in 1987 and have gone about it perfectly. Their final round opposition Woodville were continuing their 1986 historic season when they reached the finals for only their second time and sat 5th with another finals series in their sights. Entering the final minor home and away game North had won 18 of their 21 matches including 15 of the past 16 contests. Apart from losing in-from defender **David Wildy** to a season-ending shoulder injury from a behind-the-play incident in Round 18 North had a fit squad and all were performing brilliantly. **Andrew** and **Darren Jarman**, **Darel Hart** and **Steven Sims** were the most effective and skilled midfield in the league, the defence led by **Trevor Clisby** and **John Riley** were nearly impassable and up forward **Peter Bennett** and recruit **Craig Burton** were regularly kicking goals galore. With them up forward was another recruit – **John Roberts** – brought out of retirement and having a terrific season. Coming into the game he sat on 97 goals and the obvious thought of reaching the magical ton was very much in his sights and the minds of the club/ players/ supporters... and the SANFL media.

The Match

In front of nearly 4,000 on a glorious sunny afternoon for football both teams started with promise and an attacking game plan. In a 11-goal first term it was Woodville who held the early lead but an eclipsing and mesmerising nine-goal to one second term by the home side broke the game wide open and the match suddenly lost its early pulsating promise of a close contest. But more importantly it was the quarter that **John Roberts** kicked his 100th goal for the season. And the lead up was just typical North style. With **Michael Parsons** taking a good leading mark on the half-forward/ wing area in front of the member's side he quickly flicked a handball to the left-foot maestro **David Tiller** who was typically breaking the line with run. Reading the play up forward his precise kick honoured a lead by Roberts storming out from full-forward. JR's mark gave him the opportunity to soak the moment in before slotting goal 100 that initiated a frenzy of North, old and young, who supporters swarmed onto the ground to enjoy the moment. Roberts' 100 goals was the first for North since **Grenville Dietrich** in 1984, and (sadly) is a milestone that has not been repeated at North since.

The second half was a more even contest however the result was already determined. Woodville played with spirit and were not disgraced – simply North were just a highly efficient team. The win gave the Roosters win number 19 and **John Roberts** ended the game on 102 goals.

The end of the minor round was a 19-3 win/loss result for the club making it the most games ever won in a season. Only in 1905 had North lost fewer games (it should be noted in 1905 they only played 14 games for the season).

The Advertiser covered North's comprehensive victory:

- “Talk about stepping up in class. North Adelaide coach Mike Nunan and his players will have dinner with the Premier at Parliament House on Wednesday night. And next month, it should be Mr. Bannon's turn to dine with the premier;”
- “North is doing a fine job... It went through the motions at Prospect on Saturday, and voted the opposition, Woodville, out as a serious contender with a comfortable 42-point victory. Woodville waged an honest campaign in the first quarter but when North put its act together with a stunning nine-goal second term, the match was all but over.”

North were also praised regarding their pre-season recruiting to cover some stars who did not continue at North in 1987:

- “Don't be fooled into believing it was easy for North to capture its third successive minor-premiership. It lost home-grown products from last season in **Tony Antrobus** (Essendon), **Matthew Campbell** (Brisbane), and **David Roberson** (Collingwood), plus imports **Grenville Dietrich** (Torrens) and **Michael Poynton** (retired). It wasn't luck, but hard work, by the North administration to secure SA-made players **John Roberts** (Torrens), **Craig Burton** (West), **Steven Sims** (Torrens), **Jason Roe** (Port) and **Steven Trigg** (Central). These recruits weren't lured by cash, but the chance to play for a successful club. And just like they have all season, they showed on Saturday they have blended well with North's successful style.”

Best players for North were all across the ground although the engine room was where North caused the most damage. **Darren Jarman** and **Darel Hart** (not surprisingly) led the victory but in two very different styles: Jarman was elegant in the way he glided around forever with time on his hands nonchalantly collecting 21 kicks, 11 handballs and slotting 2.2 while the head-down, bum-up no-nonsense/ no-glitz Darel Hart was again simply professional, brilliant, uncanny and dominant with his 18 kicks, 18 handballs and two-goal performance. **Andrew Jarman** appeared to have a quieter day with 27 touches but not as damaging as some other games. And then the 4th of the awesome foursome - recruit and second-rover **Steven Sims** - brilliant season continued with his sock-down, untidy looking but totally effective approach collecting 21 kicks and eight handballs as well as proving a goalsneak while up forward with 4.1. He was also singled out by the paper on his match and season:

- “...it was another recruit who showed his real class. His name is Sims. He has had his critics since joining North. But Sims, like the other recruits, are having the last laugh. His performance on Saturday further strengthened the confidence North has in him.”

Outside the centre square big red-haired ruckman **Michael Parsons** fed the onballers first use and grabbed 18 touches while **David Tiller**, rebounding with precision of the half-back flank, was penetrating with his 11 kicks as tough **Steve Riley** collected 23 disposals from his flank.

Up forward the quiet demeanour yet highly effective **John Roberts** kicked five goals in his historical afternoon:

- “The effort by Roberts has been remarkable. He came out of retirement earlier this year, and on Saturday, booted his 100th goal” – *The Advertiser*.

On Magarey Medal night the final round was an exciting affair with flamboyant **Andrew Jarman** in a tight battle for the honour. When the votes were read for the Round 22 clash **Steven Sims** was awarded one, **Andrew Jarman** two and **Darel Hart** top honours with Jars’ two votes enough for him to win the award. Alongside **John Roberts** winning the Ken Farmer Medal, **Andrew Jarman** winning The Magarey Medal all was left for the was the team highest trophy. And with an emphatic final series and two wins the flag was North Adelaide!

There are no major Stats Facts from this match

Round 22 Stat Facts

- North’s 22.18 (150) – North’s 6th highest score;
- Woodville’s 16.12 (108) – 3rd highest score against North;
- 9.6 in second quarter – North’s highest score kicked in a second quarter;
- North’s 18 behinds – equalled second highest;

John Roberts 100 goals in the season

- 4th (and last) North player to achieve this feat (with Ken Farmer, Dennis Sachse and Grenville Dietrich);
- Only time 100 goals kicked by a North player without a 10-goal or more match (Roberts best was eight versus Glenelg);
- Most goals kicked in their debut season at North.



John Roberts surrounded by eager supporters after kicking his 100th goal

Match Details:

North	5.4	14.10	17.13	22.18	150
Woodville	6.5	7.6	12.10	16.12	108
Ground:	Prospect Oval			Crowd:	3,991

Best Players: D. Jarman, Hart, Sims, S. Riley, Klomp, Parsons, A. Jarman, Tiller

Scorers: Roberts 5.2, Sims 4.1, Parsons 3.2, D. Jarman 2.2, Hart 2.0, Burton 1.3, A. Jarman 1.3, Tiller 1.1, Bennett 1.0, Redden 1.0, Roe 1.0, Klomp 0.1, Carlaw 0.1, rushed 0.2

The Team:

F: Mick Redden, John Roberts, Steven Sims
HF: Kim Klomp, Peter Bennett, Craig Burton
C: Roger Carlaw, Andrew Jarman, David Sanders
HB: Jason Roe, Trevor Clisby (150 games), David Tiller
B: Stephen Riley, Paul Arnold, Steven Trigg
1R: Michael Parsons, Darren Jarman, Darel Hart
Res: Michael Armfield, Simon Cowham



Class performers in the victory over Woodville: Stephen Riley, Darren Jarman, Darel Hart, Steven Sims, Kim Klomp and John Roberts

This is the last Rooster Reminisce for the season. I hope you have enjoyed venturing back to some great Rooster matches of yesteryear, remembering the players who provided supporters great, unique or special victories, and the special moments that make this club a great, great club.

**David O'Hara
History Committee**