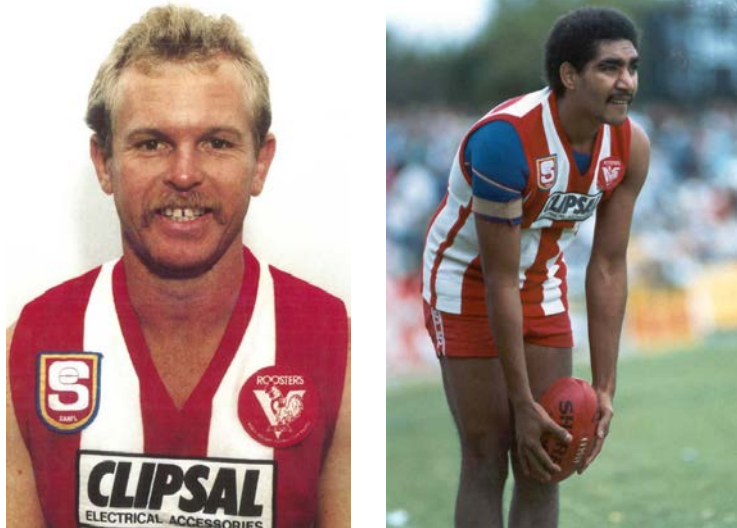


ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 3

Season 1991 (Saturday 6 April)



Steven Sims and Adrian McAdam – two players who had a ‘day out’ in North’s victory against West in Round 3, 1991

History shows season 1991 would prove a very rewarding one for the North Adelaide Roosters. A premiership (yes we know it is still our most recent one) was reward for the players and club who had to move on from the 1989 Grand Final debacle (we will not go there!). But earlier in the season North were seemingly just going about their business – until one quarter reaffirmed North’s position as a premiership threat once again.

Background

After a mixed 1990–finals series North started the ’91 season with some good form winning against South by 8 points in a high-scoring opening match before losing a nail-biter to Port the following week which saw North drop out of the top five. West, North’s Round 3 pponent, had still not won a match but there were sceptics who believed they had a good chance to defeat the Roosters. It was not to be as North unleashed one of their most compelling quarters to demoralise West and show the skills and efficiency North still held in their arsenal.

By 1991 North were already beginning to rebuild their team into a new power. Gone were a great number of icons of the 1980s who brought their supporters enjoyment and many victories: **David Tiller**, **John Riley**, **Paul Arnold**, **Andrew** and **Darren Jarman**, while **Darel Hart** was spending his season at West Lakes playing for the newly formed Adelaide Crows. But some of the icons remained: **Mike Redden**, **Steven Sims**, **Steven Riley** and **Peter Bennett**, and around them a new crop of talent was emerging. In Round 3, 1991, this mixture was beginning to take great shape.

The Match

The West and North battle at Richmond was close during the course of the afternoon. An inaccurate West had the better of the first quarter and their 4.7 return didn’t provide an appropriate lead against North’s 3.1. By half-time the see-sawing battle could not get any closer with both teams locked on 50 points. During the second half North began to find the quality and skill it has shown in the past and their teamwork began to define the game. A five-goal to three

third quarter opened up a tender lead for the Roosters at the last break with either side still sensing victory was in sight.

The final quarter was breath-taking for the North faithful. In a dominant display North not only broke away from West's tight strangle-hold but tore the game apart with brilliance and skill with attacking and bullocking football. The onslaught yielded 11.3 to West's 1.4 – and left the home team's supporters bewildered. A 74-point win is huge in any match – it feels even bigger when the teams were level-pegging half way through the game!

The Advertiser captured North's form in the match:

- “It was a vastly different looking Roosters side in the second half. Players well held early broke their shackles, burst in to the fray and played with considerable authority.”

Coach **Mike Nunan** was at his analytical best, making some subtle changes to the team during the match that created an unmistakable effect of the result. In particular **Michael Parsons**, commencing the match on the bench as second ruck for the legend **Mick Redden**, replaced third-gamer **Michael Dittmar** at full forward to become a strong focal point to finish the match with a five-goal haul. Warrior rover **Steven Sims**, who always looks like who got ready in a rush, piled on four goals from his 29 touches. **Peter Bennett** was elusive at constructive as always at centre-half-forward but what would have put a smile on **Nunan's** face was the performance of the young brigade who stepped up. **Peter Turner**, after making his debut in the 1990 Qualifying Final, was remarkable in a performance that would make anyone who witnessed the match stand up and take note of his ability. In only his 5th match he was certainly one, if not the, most influential players in the match. His statistics reflected this: 16 kicks, 10 marks, 17 handballs and a goal playing effectively a loose tall in the forward/ centre/ around the ground.

The Advertiser was keen to reflect his performance:

- “Then there was outstanding youngster Peter Turner who impressed all with his showing – a footballer or enormous potential.”

Further plaudits from *The Advertiser* were placed on significant achievers for North:

- “Ex-bulldog **Peter Krieg** continued to win some important touches...”
- “**Mike Redden**, who had been strangely quiet, gave the Roosters smaller brigade an armchair ride out of the centre. It's been written about a thousand times, but the likeable Pekina farmer continues to amaze with that extraordinary ability to find a team-mate from the crunch and frenzy of a rucking contest;”
- “That giant of a man, **Michael Parsons**, replaced young **Michael Dittmar** at full forward and he provided instant headaches to the Bloods brainstrust”

A couple of unlikely success stories were missed by the paper but not the umpires. **Tim Nunan's** 20-disposal game collected him three Magarey Medal votes in only his third league game while wingman **Marc Marshall**, in his 19th game, was awarded two in his 26-disposal match.

Peter Krieg would prove a major recruiting coup for the club. He collected 28 disposals in this match but would also provide a very solid season on his way to a long-awaited flag. Writing for the S.A. Football Budget Gordon Schwarz certainly admired his performance when he stated:

- “Krieg had an indifferent season with Central last year but his form against West Adelaide last week suggested he will boost North's premiership prospects this year. At centre, he was the link man – swift, industrious and constructive – who left opponents in a state of shock with a great display of skills.”

Adrian McAdam, another newcomer and in his 6th game, showed class and ball skills his older brother **Greg** would be proud off collecting 18 kicks and effortlessly snagging three goals from five shots while the talented **Adam Saliba** smooth-sailed through another game amassing 27 disposals in a solid performance.

Parson's move and success at full-forward brought about a typical “Bristles” quote after the match: “It's a lot better there than in the dugout.”

The match proved North were again on target for another finals charge. What simply couldn't be known was that the team they brutally swept aside would be the team that they would later take on in the ultimate match of the year - the Grand Final.

Stats Fact

- North's 24.10 (154 points) equals North's 6th highest ever score against West and the highest score at Richmond;
- North's 11.3 final quarter is their highest 4th quarter score ever against West and the only time they have kicked 10 goals or more in a quarter at Richmond;
- North 74-point winning margin is their 3rd highest against West at Richmond;

Round 3 Stat Facts

- North's 24.10 is their equal 3rd highest score;
- North's 74-point winning margin is their third best margin;
- North 11.3 final quarter easily beats any other last quarter scores.

Match Details:

North	3.1	8.2	13.7	24.10	154
West	4.7	7.8	10.10	11.14	80
Ground:	Richmond Oval			Crowd:	2,668

Best Players: Turner, Sims, Krieg, Bennett, Marshall, McAdam, Redden, Parsons, Saliba, Nunan

Scorers: Parsons 5.0, Sims 4.0, McAdam 3.2, Bennett 3.1, Nunan 2.2, Roe 2.0, Dittmar 1.1, Sanders 1.1, Turner 1.0, Krieg 1.0, Barratt 1.0, Saliba 0.1, rushed 0.2

The Team:

F: Adrian McAdam, Michael Dittmar, Tim Nunan
HF: Peter Turner, Peter Bennett, Steven Barratt
C: Marc Marshall, Peter Krieg, David Sanders
HB: Tim Perkins, Jason Roe, Stephen Riley
B: Rod Saunders, Simon Trenorden, Bradley Ryan
1R: Michael Redden, Adam Saliba, Steven Sims
Res: Michael Parsons, Trevor Clisby



***Adrian McAdam** and **Michael Dittmar** celebrate a goal in a later match during the season (Round 7 against Eagles) while two prominent players against West – **Mick Redden** and **Peter Krieg** – enjoy the victory*

Do you remember the match? Or do you have copies of North matches or player photographs??? The club is always searching for historical photos (even from the early 1990s) of players and teams. If ANYONE has any that the club could obtain a copy please contact me (David O'Hara) on 0403 012 646 or Barry Dolman on 0431 810 185.

David O'Hara
History Committee