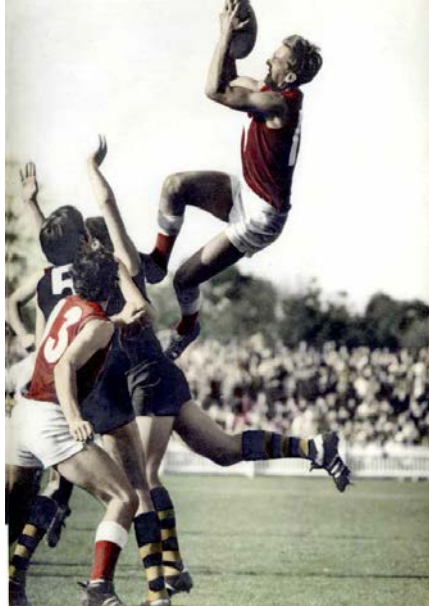


ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 7

Season 1971 (Monday 17 May)



Barrie Robran taking "that mark" in the holiday clash against Glenelg

Nothing can beat a great come-from-behind victory... unless it is against a powerful opponent... on the holiday Monday set aside for two top teams... in front of a huge crowd... at the most picturesque oval... and your opponent is Glenelg! North enjoyed such a game during their heyday era of the early 1970s that continued to promote them as a powerhouse club and at the same time re-confirming that Barrie Robran is THE man for any occasion. And this match was another of those occasions....

The Background

By the May holiday Monday in 1971 North were playing good football and were sitting equal top with one loss yet third on the table due to percentage behind Sturt and Port. North defeated the latter by a mammoth 83-points in Round 6. 1970s Runners-Up Glenelg season was disappointing with one win in their first six games and their position as a strong contender questionable. In their previous meeting Glenelg had knocked North out of the finals last season in the 1st Semi Final after North had won both minor round games.

The Match

Over 20,000 spectators waltzed into the beautiful Adelaide Oval to watch the Monday game. Everyone had North red-hot favourites leading in and they could have secured a great start in the first term except for sloppy goal-kicking. North's started with some control and time but kicked five behinds before **Terry von Bertouch** kicked North's one and only goal for the term leaving the score at the first break 1.8 to Glenelg's 2.3 and leaving the door open for Glenelg. The Tigers advantage was extended during the second term when they kicked 6.3 to North's inaccurate (again) 2.4 to leave the Roosters 24-points behind at the main break. Glenelg's dominating players - including Graham Cornes, Peter Marker and Wayne Phillis - were all on top of their opposition. To make matters worse defenders **Arch Wilkey** and **Bob Hammond** were carrying injuries into the second half.

Whether North could not get their mindset correct or Glenelg outplayed their position on the ladder the half-time break couldn't come quick enough to allow North a chance to refocus. Despite a (probable) terse word or two from coach **Mike Patterson** the start of the 3rd term continued from where the previous half left off as Glenelg kicked the first three goals of the term and suddenly North were 43 points down and in big trouble. At this stage North had only kicked three goals and had not scored in the third quarter. And then, finally, North began to hit their straps and begin to win the 50-50 to dominate play. They ended the term kicking four of the last five goals to trail by 22 points at give themselves some chance of clawing their back into the game.

And they did. The final quarter procession was undeniably dominating and awesome. North, a sleeping giant for three quarters, woke from their lethargic daydream and overwhelmed the unexpected Glenelg with a nine-goal last term. The quarter not only saw North get back into the game but storm past Glenelg's score to finish the game with a somewhat comfortable 16-point victory. The victory was important for the red-and-whites to remain in the hunt for top spot.

The Advertiser recorded North's astounding come-from-nowhere victory:

- "The Roosters had trailed the Tigers at each change... but then staged an almost unbelievable comeback in the last term to score 9.3 to Glenelg's 3.1 and win by 16 points. North's revival shattered any lingering thoughts among the crowd of 20,570, that it might be brittle and could not win the tough ones."
- "North's last quarter was so high class the players should have been wearing dinner suits."

During this North era it was not surprising that when the team needed someone to stand up and take the game by the throat it generally would be the same dynamic champion who would put his hand up with monotonous regularity. **Barrie Robran**, already a two-time Magarey Medallist, did what champions do when the team faced adversity by hauling his team over the line and lead the fightback with brilliant football. He used his regulatory of obtaining the ball to bring teammates into the game with precision disposal or linking handball. In fact it was during this fightback that he took the season's "Mark of the Year" which can be seen framed in the North Adelaide clubrooms.

Obviously *The Advertiser's* match report could not leave the individual brilliance of Robran out:

- "And it was Barrie Robran, once again, that spearheaded North's recovery... Robran gradually found the run off the ball to explode into action in that last quarter. He ranged right through the North forward lines, shredding the Glenelg defence and setting up match winning chances for team mates. The whole North Adelaide team lifted."

Playing from the pivot (centre) Robran finished the game with 24 kicks, 16 marks and 11 handballs highlighting his effectiveness in marking strength as well as his ground play and ball magnetism. What those statistics do not show, but is widely known, is what he does with them!

North's state rover **Terry von Bertouch** was (as always) at his brilliant best collecting 23 kicks, six handballs and clocking up 4.2 when playing around the goals. Underrated backman **Darryl Webb** was strong in defence and rebounded with 19 kicks with other contributions coming from forward **Ken Francou**, wingman **Peter Ford** and the dogmatic **Bob Hammond** at full back.

The worse culprit for North's poor accuracy was also their leading goalkicker for the match. **Neil Sachse**, continuing the role of full-forward he delivered so well the previous year, kicked 5.7 – 12 shots at goal – which on a normal day could quite easily have been eight or nine goals from his 12 shots.

A loss to a low club may have set the season on a different path but a victory built around persistence, self-confidence and determination can set a season up and provide the team trust that they can win any contest. Of course we all know that 1971 would be the first of North's back-to-back premierships. Oh, and another reason for North's self-confidence? We had Barrie Robran....

Stats Fact

- North's 20.15 (135) is North's 3rd highest score against Norwood at Prospect;
- North's 26-point half-time deficit is their second highest comeback against Glenelg, while their 22-point comeback from three-quarter time is their 8th biggest comeback ever and their 2nd highest against Glenelg;
- North 9.3 last quarter is their second highest last quarter score against Glenelg

Round 7 Stat Facts

- North's 9.3 final quarter isn't their highest 4th quarter effort. North kicked 10.1 in the following year's last quarter (when they kicked their highest ever score);
- Glenelg's 15.9 (99) was North's 3rd highest losing score against North.

Match Details:

North	1.8	3.12	7.16	16.19	115
Glenelg	2.3	8.6	12.8	15.9	99
Ground:	Adelaide Oval				Crowd: 20,570

Best Players: B. Robran, Webb, von Bertouch, K. Francou, Ford, Hammond

Scorers: N. Sachse 5.7, von Bertouch 4.2, K. Francou 2.2, R. Robran 2.2, Norton 1.1, Plummer 1.0, Sporn 1.0, Lehmann 0.2, Ford 0.2, rushed 0.1

The Team:

F: Geoff Norton, Neil Sachse, Ken Francou
HF: John Plummer, Rodney Robran, Kym Lehmann
C: Barry Stringer, Barrie Robran, Peter Ford
HB: Michael Burns, Arch Wilkey, Bohdan Jaworskyj
B: Geoff Paull, Bob Hammond, Kevin Barr
1R: Garry Sporn, Darryl Webb, Terry von Bertouch
Res: Jamie Coppins, Barry Bamford (50th game)



*Darryl Webb – a solid contributor in the
Holiday Monday victory*

**David O'Hara
History Committee**