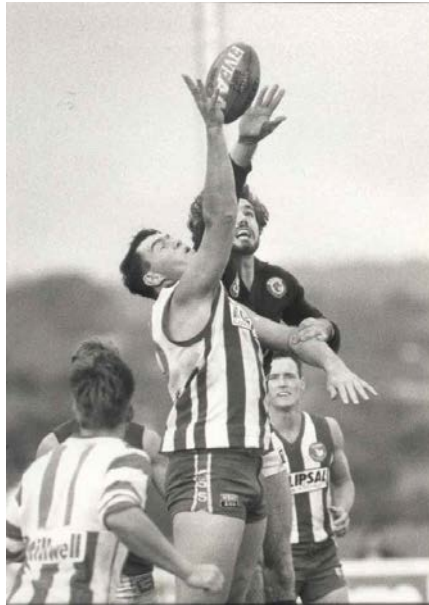


ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 8

Season 1994 (Saturday 7 May)



Wayne 'Boomer' Rosenboom (in 1995)

Wayne Rosenboom's career at North was brief – five seasons and 78 games – but he was an integral component in North's line-up during the mid-1990s when North were going through a rebuild period and a player current supporters still recall. He burst into the SANFL scene in 1994 as a solidly-built full-forward and grew into a damaging and match-winning ruckman. In Round 8 of his debut season he led North to a major upset that no one expected. And of all places the game was in Port Pirie...

The Background

By 1994 North had certainly come down from the highs of the late 1980s and the 1991 flag when 1993 saw their first season to miss the finals in five years. Coach **Darel Hart** was preparing the next stage of a Rooster assault mixing the stable experience of **David Sanders, Peter Bennett, Brenton Phillips** and **Tim Perkins** with fresh faces in **Simon Peucker, Daniel Walsh, Alastair Gray, Mark Hollitt...** and **Wayne Rosenboom.**

The 1994 season started shaky to put it mildly. Losses to Sturt and West – two struggling clubs – in their opening games didn't commence the season as the club would have liked. Further losses to South and a thumping from Eagles saw North 0-4 before a surprise victory over Norwood at Prospect. By Round 8 North had only one win and were sitting bottom of the ladder and were meeting second-placed Central out at Port Pirie. Understandably not purists predicted anything but a comfortable win for the Doggies.

The Match

With an nothing-to-lose type attitude and **Hart's** continual push for quick, swift ball movement North broke the game open immediately with a stunning nine-goal first term. Sharp teamwork presented the team with 13 scoring shots while Central managed four goals in a high-scoring quarter. **Rosenboom**, in his 5th game, started strongly as well to kick three of North's first quarter goals. Despite the gap North was keen to maintain the intensity and build on the lead

which shocked Central. And they did so in another high-scoring term with another six goals credited by half-time. Pleasing for the coach was North's increased tight, non-nonsense defensive pressure which restricted the 'Dogs to only five goals at the main break. North were amazingly 65-points up - a rare situation for the club in recent times - and it was only half time!

Heartened by their first hour of play North continued to dominate with another brilliant nine-goal third quarter with **Rosenboom** kicking another three for the term. Central marginally outscored North in the final term but North walked off Memorial Oval beaming with their best performance for years and an 86-point walloping.

North's efficient ball use was at its most effective and 161 handballs clearly indicated the players were prepared to run past and collect the handball received to move the ball quickly and directly. Media reports recorded North's stunning win:

- "Central was ruffled by North's pace, slick teamwork, and constant scragging. Wherever the ball was North had two or three players contesting and others close to the packs ready to feed the forward line. Players like **Tim Nunan**, **Daniel Walsh**, **Damien Squire** and **Brodie Atkinson** were brilliant in this area and eight-goal full forward **Wayne Rosenboom** was one who greatly appreciated their determined efforts downfield" - *The Advertiser*;
- "North were brilliant the way they burrowed for the ball, always had more effective players around the packs, moved the ball with precise deliveries, and played as a highly competitive team" - *Sunday Mail*;
- "It has not been easy for (North coach) **Hart** because North's lack of experience, but there is no doubt the side is in capable hands and is heading in the right direction, just as it was a decade ago when (**Michael**) **Nunan** developed a premiership style. If his players continue to apply themselves mentally and physically, as they did on Saturday, there is no reason why North will not beat any side in the competition."

Rosenboom finished the match with his career-best 8.1. The *Sunday Mail* summed up his game superbly:

- He (Rosenboom) kicked them from powerful marks, over his shoulder, from near-impossible angles and on the run. He was awesome. More than that, he gave North tremendous hope for the season because, since the Barrel (Grenville Dietrich) left, the team has sorely lacked a capable full forward."

'Boomer' was ably aided up forward by the talented half-forward **Damien Squire** who found plenty of the ball (21 kicks, 15 handballs) and was deadly accurate with a personal best six goals without a blemish. They were proficiently fed with precision passing by the likes of evergreen **Brenton Phillips** (24 disposals), **Tim Nunan** (27 possessions) and the powerful captain Tim Perkins (17 kicks, 14 handballs) who played as a midfielder as opposed to his customary half-back. Youngster **Daniel Walsh** was also improving with every game **Peter Turner**, who was becoming increasingly an AFL player in the making took another step forward in a dominant display of athleticism, aerial supremacy and cunning ball skills to finish with 16 kicks, 10 marks and three goals. His performance was enough for the umpires to award him their three votes, while **Phillips** (two) and **Rosenboom** (one) also received votes.

North's defence, for so many matches feverishly trying to withstand the constant attacks from opposition, held up throughout the afternoon and were tidy in returning the ball out of the opposition scoring range with **Richard Gerke** leading the charge. Ruckman **Phil Lounder** received praise from the *Sunday Mail*:

- "**Phil Lounder**, playing against his former club for the first time, set the trend in ruck and consistently provided chances for the smaller players..."

These games generally provide a struggling club confidence and some backbone to build from and this was the case as North won four of the next five games to sit in the Top 5 before late losses and the fluctuating wave in performances of young, inexperienced players left North one win short of joining in on the finals series. It was also a wonderful day for any supporter who ventured up to Port Pirie to witness the game. Where you there?



Youngster Daniel Walsh

Stats Fact

- North's 28.9 (177) is their 13th highest score in any match they have played and the highest against Central in their 139 meetings;
- The 86-point win is North's 4th-biggest margin against Central;
- The 268-point aggregate is the 5th highest in North-Central matches;
- The crowd of 1,704 is the lowest crowd attendance for any North-Central match;
- Wayne Rosenboom's 8.1 is equal 3rd behind Grenville Dietrich's 12.3 (1983) and 11.2 (1986) performances against Central

Round 8 Stats Fact

- North's score of 28.9 (177) is their highest for the round while their 86-point victory is their 3rd best result;
- The 268-point aggregate for the game is the 3rd highest;
- North's 9.4 is their highest first-quarter score for the round (they kicked 9.1 in 1992);
- North's 9.2 3rd term score is their 4th highest for a third quarter;
- Wayne Rosenboom's eight goals is equal 8th for the round. Ken Farmer holds six of the seven greater performances.

Match Details:

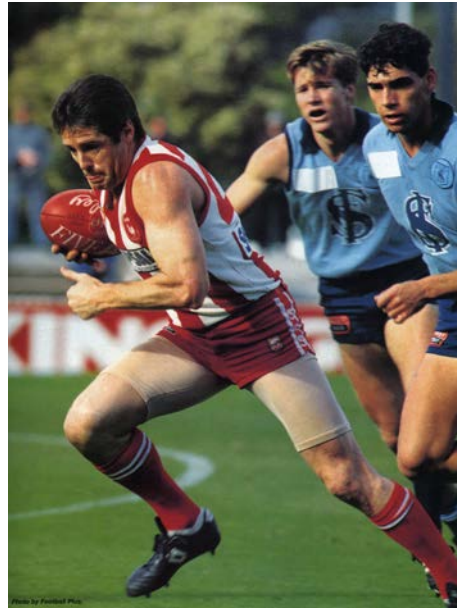
North	9.4	15.7	24.9	28.9	177
Central	4.2	5.2	7.7	13.13	91
Ground:	Memorial Oval (Port Pirie)				Crowd: 1,704

Best Players: Nunan, Walsh, Squire, Turner, Lounder, Perkins, Rosenboom, Phillips, Bennett, Gerke

Scorers: Rosenboom 8.1, Squire 6.0, Turner 3.1, Walsh 2.0, Sanders 2.0, Nunan 2.0, Atkinson 1.2, Phillips 1.2, Bennett 1.1, Peucker 1.0, Lounder 1.0, Perkins 0.1, rushed 0.1

The Team:

F: Peter Turner, Wayne Rosenboom, Damien Squire
 HF: Brodie Atkinson, Peter Bennett, Josh Francou
 C: David Sanders, Brenton Phillips, Daniel Walsh
 HB: Mark Jeffries, Simon Peucker, Alistair Gray
 B: Richard Gerke, Mark Hollitt, Simon Hill
 1R: Phil Lounder, Tim Perkins, Tim Nunan
 Res: Daniel Grantham, Todd Roberts



*Peter Turner (In Round 6, 1994) and Brenton Phillips (in Round 11, 1994)
were both superb in North's massive victory*

**David O'Hara
History Committee**