

ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 9

Season 1990 (Saturday 16 June)



Déjà vu – Darren Jarman against South in the 1990 1st Semi where he repeated his goalkicking mayhem against South Adelaide in Round 9

Mike Nunan was an enthralling, talented yet divisive coach at North Adelaide during his record-breaking 13 years at the helm. In his early days he stood on many toes in order to have the team and club move into a new direction on and off the field. He dodged boardroom bullets in the early 1980s when his new team was not winning but in conclusion brought about some of the most exciting football to be witnessed in red-and-white colours. He achieved two premierships from five grand finals and while some would say it was below the expectations for the teams and players we had in the late 1980s/ early 1990s I would take that period again anytime. Whatever supporters or past players/ officials may have thought about him personally he produced an exciting and memorable period in North Adelaide's history. He was a master in game-plans, used his Jack Oatey legacy with quick ball movement using the art of handball as an offensive tactic and loved his team scoring freely and regularly. What may have been missed throughout his tactical skills was the slight adjustment of a player or two during games that helped bring about a victory. One such move was made midway through the 1990 season that no one expected yet, in hindsight, proved a masterstroke move that would be reused for the player in future games and during his AFL career. That player in question was admirably known as "Fud."

The Background

North were quick to leave the 1989 Grand Final debacle behind and despite losing key players **Andrew Jarman** and **Doug Smart** were back in the top half of the premiership table early in the 1990 season. A loss to Glenelg in a top-of-the-table match in Round 8 dropped them back to 4th while their Round 9 opponents South were struggling and sitting in 8th position. **Darren Jarman** was in fine form and enjoying a great season dazzling opposition midfielders with magical skills and fancy footwork and with the unstoppable **Darel Hart** formed two of the most formidable midfield duo in the SANFL. A win against South was expected however the concern of recent tight tagging on Jarman led Nunan to decipher of a new role for the skilled follower that would dismiss these concerns.

The Match

The score of 15.11 to 7.10 for an easy 49-point victory hid the storyline that came from the match in where North won every quarter. Instead of North's best midfielder lining up in the centre Jarman commenced and continued to play at full forward. And what a positive consequence Nunan's decision was to become. Jarman kicked 9.5 with a licence to take on any full back with pure abandon. His one-on-one domination was exquisite with subtle outbodying, fast leading, zig-zagging around opponents and continually hitting the scoreboard. In a breathtaking performance: not only in the scoring he personally built up on the scoreboard but the style and brilliance the kicks were obtained. And it could have been a 10-goal outcome had he not spoilt the afternoon with his final three shots at goal registering a point and two out-of-bounds. In fact to clearly demonstrate his dominance for North he kicked nine of North's first 13 goals before his captain Hart kicked the final two six-pointers.

Of course with a standard result (team-wise) and the magic Jarman overwhelming over the course of the game media attention was certainly directed on him:

- **“Darren Jarman’s** class performance won’t be forgotten by the 3672 fans who braved the chilly conditions at Adelaide Oval. He had quarter-by-quarter returns of 3.1, 1.0, 3.3 and 2.1, and in the final 20 minutes, hit the post once and kicked out on the full twice as Rooster fans waited anxiously for a 10th goal. It never came but before **Darel Hart** chipped in with North’s last two goals, Jarman had kicked nine of North’s first 13” – *Football Times*;
- “Interesting listening to North coach **Michael Nunan** in the changerooms after last week’s win... He said the big difference between the two sides was skill level and **Darren Jarman** at full-forward. Nunan said he had been looking at this move for a while and took the plunge last week because he had **(Kim) Klomp**, **(Steven) Sims** and **(Darel) Hart** to go into the centre” – *South Australian Football Budget*;
- **“Darren Jarman... His creative and two-sided brilliance was too much for the three South defenders he beat”** – *South Australian Football Budget*

Jarman's 9.5 came from an 18-kick and four-mark performance – the small amount of marks highlighting most of his scoring created by brilliant ground play. In fact with the focus on kicking goals Jarman recorded no handballs for the match – the only time in his 117-game career! Not surprisingly he collected three Magarey Medal votes at the end of the year with youngster **Adam Saliba’s** 22-disposal performance earning two votes. Other notable performers behind Jarman's captivating performance and Saliba's smooth ball-work were the consistently consistent **Darel Hart**, capturing another 31 kicks, six handballs and three goal performance, the durable **Mick Redden** who collected 22 touches himself while handing out first use to his small brigade with 22 hit-outs, and backman **Steven Barratt** (24 touches) and **Sean Tasker** (18) whose relentless interceptions thwarted many of South's pushes into their forward arc.

The move of Jarman was a sensational stroke of genius and was to be repeated by Nunan and Jarman regularly for the remainder of the season. Adelaide Crows supporters will also recall the move of Jarman into the forward lines by Malcolm Blight that proved pivotal to their 1997-98 AFL premierships. Of course it has to be said the move would not have worked for any player – it took the out-of-the-circle thinking of Nunan but the crafty talent of **Darren Jarman** to pull it off.

Anyone who witnessed the Jarman performance will recall it for decades and will take great delight in telling anyone who mentions the match, “I was there...”.

Stats Fact

- Jarman's nine goals falls short of a personal record against South at Adelaide. In fact it sits equal 5th highest behind Ken Farmer (twice), Daniel Hargraves and Ross Lehmann.

Round 9 Stats Fact

- Jarman's goalkicking feat, whilst great to watch, sits 6th in the best goalkicking efforts for a North player in this round. Farmer kicked 10 goals or more on four occasions while Grenville Dietrich kicked 10 goals in 1984.

Match Details:

North	6.1	8.4	11.7	15.11	101
South	3.2	5.4	6.9	7.10	52
Ground:	Adelaide Oval			Crowd:	3,672

Best Players: D. Jarman, D. Hart, Klomp, Redden, Saliba, Barratt, Tasker

Scorers: D. Jarman 9.5, D. Hart 3.1, Stone 2.0, Atkinson 1.0, Lehmann 0.2, Sanders 0.1, Sims 0.1, rushed 0.1

The Team:

F: Todd Stone, Martin McCague (debut), Brodie Atkinson

HF: Adam Saliba, Peter Bennett, K. Klomp

C: David Sanders, Darren Jarman, Steven Barratt

HB: Sean Tasker, Trevor Clisby, Jason Blair

B: Rod Saunders (debut), Simon Trenorden, Bradley Ryan

1R: Michael Redden, Steven Sims, Darel Hart

Res: Tim Perkins, Troy Lehmann



Adam Saliba (against Glenelg in Round 8, 1990) scored two Magarey Medal votes in the South Adelaide clash

David O'Hara
History Committee