

ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 10

Season 1980 (Saturday 7 June)



Warming Up before the big game (l-r) David Tiller, Paul Ah Chee, Brenton Hartfield, Barrie Robran, Trevor Clisby, Rodney Robran, Doug Algate, Dean Conder and Steven Hay

There are games that remain special to a football club and anyone associated whether you are a supporter, player, club official or a footy purist. One game that represents this for the NAFC is the day Barrie Robran played his 200th official match in Round 10, 1980. Many others have reached this milestone, but for those on either side of the Prospect Oval fence around the late 1970s would all have been aware the importance and determination hidden behind Robran running through the banner on that day. And to play a strong side like Sturt when North were a struggling club, the boys couldn't have provided a grander match to help celebrate the occasion.

The Background

From 1967 to mid-1974 Barrie Robran WAS North Adelaide and the most respected player in the SANFL. By the weekend before that fateful State match encounter when Robran was tragically injured he had played 152 official games and it was naturally thought 200 games will be an upcoming milestone in a couple of seasons. In fact due to injury Robran's fight to the 200-club took a further six seasons. Having only played 15 games in the three previous seasons the milestone would have appeared one that may never be reached. Yet in a remarkable sign of courage, patience and determination the day finally arrived. Prior to the match Robran played in one previous game for the season – in an eight-point victory against Norwood two weeks earlier where he was in great form with 21 kicks, 11 marks, 16 handballs and two goals. The team overall were struggling when coach Robran was named in the Round 10 clash – one of six changes for the match (four due to injury) - not what the team would have preferred coming into the game. The build-up was huge, a massive crowd of over 10,000 was in attendance, and on a sunny Saturday afternoon Robran, with knee profoundly strapped, lead his team onto the ground.



Out he comes. Robran runs out to wondrous adulations by his adoring supporters with children and cheers squad forming a guard of honour.

The Match

Not surprisingly for most, and ironically poignant, it was **Barrie Robran** that instigated the first North score when he weaved passed a couple of Sturt opponents to find his brother Rodney with a perfect pass. Rodney kicked the goal, North had the lead and they were never going to give it back. It was the first of seven first-quarter goals that shocked Sturt and provided an important 17-point buffer which encouraged the crowd to be passionately involved early and provide panic for the Double Blues. If Sturt weren't up against it already with the importance the match meant to the NAFC a great start was the worst thing Sturt could have wished for. North's long-kicking and quick ball movement was too much for the shaken Sturt team as they continued to widen the gap each quarter to end up comfortable 50-point victors. The 23.17 was their first 20+ score against Sturt since 1973.

The Advertiser was most willing to highlight the special occasion and the performance North produced:

- "Everyone loves a champion. And how true that is when he has the modesty and brilliance of Barrie Robran. Even the most one-eyed Double Blue supporter must have felt a touch of emotion as this great South Australian player led the Roosters through the line-up of players... before charging on to the Prospect Oval for his 200th game."
- "From the first bounce... the famous No. 10 jumper swooped on the ball, evaded opponents and delivered a precision pass to brother Rodney, who completed the act with a goal. The Rooster supporters loved it as they rose to their feet and applauded and the North Adelaide team, lifted by the occasion, played top football to run out convincing winners at the end of the day."

Robran finished the match with 22 disposals, eight marks and a goal – certainly not his greatest individual match in terms of stats but one that would still rate high on his list. The best for North was ruck-rover **Doug Algate** who was simply all over the ground. He collected 32 kicks in a 39-disposal match and was never out of a contest while experienced-recruit **Mike Nunan** was important with his proficiency and skill to play a mastery role in the win by using his 21 handpasses to link team-mates into great advantage. Both were highlighted by *The Advertiser*.

- "**Doug Algate** was absolutely superb, covering enormous areas of play in what must rate as his best game. **Michael Nunan**, who seems to save his most gritty games for Sturt, plundered the ball constantly, used handball and footpasses to bring other players into the game, and was a constant 'thorn in the side' to the Double Blues



Doug Algate in an unknown match

Due to the team-work victory many players were credited with fine matches:

- “**Trevor Hill** and **Barry Stringer** won the wing duals, with Hill particularly penetrating into the forward lines, young **Brenton Hartfield** played well, **Greg McAdam** kicked 3 goals 2 in a ripper, **Greg Schlein** played a great hand with strong body work in ruck, **(Robert) Diorio** bobbed into the game all day and **Peter Cloke** was a marvellous spearhead kicking five goals.” **Peter Cloke’s** five goals included his 100th goal.

It was a resounding win, although the power of the moment couldn’t continue through the season as North won two of their remaining 12 games. But, when the time was needed to win as a mark of appreciation for a man who represented the club with distinguished consistency and brilliance, the Round 10 afternoon was won to saviour....

Stats Fact

- North’s 23.17 (155) is their 9th highest ever score against Sturt, and their 4th highest against them at Prospect;
- The 260-point match aggregate is the highest in a North-Sturt match at Prospect;

Round 10 Stats Fact

- North’s 23.17 (155) is their 2nd highest score for the round;
- Sturt’s 15.15 is North’s 3rd Highest Losing Score in the round;
- The 260-point match aggregate is the highest aggregate score for North match in Round 10;
- North’s 7.4 opening term is their second highest score for the term in any match for this round;

Match Details:

North	7.4	12.6	17.14	23.17	155
Sturt	4.5	9.7	12.11	15.15	105
Ground:	Prospect Oval			Crowd:	9,964

Best Players: Algate, Nunan, Hill, McAdam, R. Diorio, B. Robran, Schlein, B. Stringer

Scorers: Cloke 5.1, R. Diorio 3.2, McAdam 3.2, Algate 3.1, Ah Chee 2.1, Hay 2.0, R. Robran 1.3, Roach 1.1, B. Robran 1.1, Nunan 1.0, Schlein 1.0, Hill 0.3, Conder 0.1, W. Stringer 0.1

The Team:

F: Rodney Robran, Peter Cloke, Robert Diorio
 HF: Greg McAdam, Steven Hay, Tony Roach
 C: Trevor Hill, Barrie Robran, Barry Stringer
 HB: Dean Conder, Brenton Hartfield, Wayne Stringer
 B: David Tiller, Trevor Clisby, Michael Redden

1R: Greg Schlein, Doug Algate, Michael Nunan
 Res: Paul Ah Chee, Mark Downie

PLAYERS	KICKS				Match Total	HIT OUTS	HAND-BALL	PUNTS For	MARKS	GOALS	POINTS
	1st Q.	2nd Q.	3rd Q.	4th Q.							
R. ROBRAN	2	1	1	3	7	2	6	1	2	1	3
P. CLOKE	2	1	-	5	8	-	5	1	6	5	1
R. DIORIO	-	4	4	4	12	-	10	-	5	3	2
G. MADAM	1	7	3	3	13	-	8	3	4	3	2
S. HAY	1	1	5	3	10	-	2	1	5	2	-
A. ROACH	3	1/Off	Off	Off	5	-	-	-	3	1	1
T. HILL	8	2	4/Off	10/Off	15	-	4	1	1	1	3
B. ROBRAN	2	2	1	5	10	3	12	1	8	1	1
B. STRINGER	3	3	2	7	15	-	7	-	9	-	-
D. CONDER	2	2	3	6	13	-	9	1	3	-	-
B. HARTFIELD	3	1	1	2	7	2	8	-	3	-	-
W. STRINGER	2	2	1	2	7	-	10	1	5	-	1
D. TILLER	-	2	3	2	7	-	8	1	3	-	-
T. CLISBY	-	4	1	1	6	-	3	3	2	-	-
M. REDDEN	1	1	2	1	5	12	2	2	4	-	-
G. SCHLEIN	1	2	4	-	7	7	3	6	3	1	1
D. ALGATE	7	10	8	7	32	-	7	1	5	3	1
M. NUNAN	3	2	-	3	8	-	21	3	1	1	1
P. AH CHEE	Off	Off/1	2	1	4	-	4	-	3	2	1
M. DOWNIE	Off	Off	Off	Off	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	41	50	45	55	191	26	131	27	75	23	17
J. HYLTON UMPIRE: R. STENNERT ATTENDANCE: 9,964 OVAL: PROSPECT CONDITIONS: GOOD											

The News player statistics (back when they were published in the paper) for the North players in their Round 10 victory. How these records are managed and recorded have certainly changed through the decades.

David O'Hara
 History Committee