

A reflection into the club and its players from a different perspective through snippets of yesteryear

Round 9 Edition

The Official N.A.F.C. Website – June 2013

The Best you have seen? - by Barrie Robran
Club Legend Barrie Robran wanted to recognise the talent of a certain young bloke at our footy club, so took to the keyboard to share this article us...

“Who is the best kick for goal that you have ever seen? I have watched many great goal-kickers over a very long period of time. Some names that spring to mind are Neville Roberts [when playing full-forward for Norwood], John Sandland was good, Tim Evans from Port Adelaide was right up there, but I have always regarded, until quite recently, that Norwood’s Roger Woodcock was the most accurate goal-converter that I have seen. Until, along came Lewis Johnston.

This boy now leads this honour, literally, by a “country mile.” His unerring accuracy and consistency abounds from any angle, distance and situation.

Congratulations young fellow, it is an absolute pleasure watching you kick for goal in a Red and White guernsey.”



“Saturday Journal” Saturday 15 August 1925

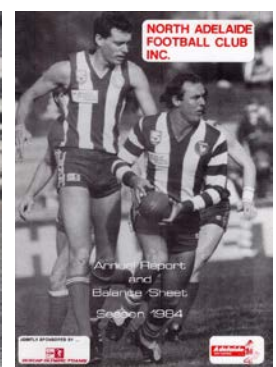
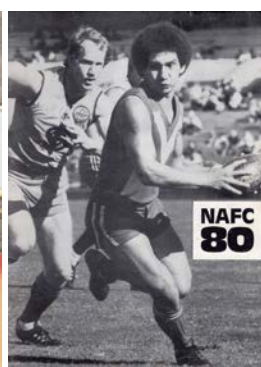
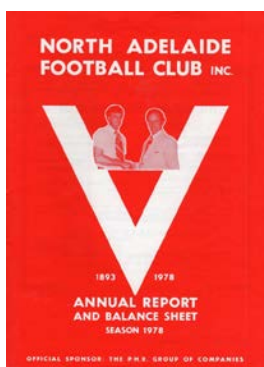
“One of the old-time footballers was Mr. James Ballantyne, who played on the parklands for a junior team over North Adelaide way when they wore their coats inside out and waistcoats (turned inside out) on top as jerseys. Yes, and he can remember playing (when he and his pals had no finance) with the good old pig bladder for a ball and any sort of things for goalposts. However, Jim reached his ambition when he was handed a red and white jersey one day in the early nineties and was told off to watch a six-footer on the wing. Jim asked his umpire if he was allowed to use a stepladder, and on being answered in the negative he just got along with Arty and Herby Brown, Jack Reedman, Wally Heirfield, Chris Bennett, and did his little bit, with the result that his name was published in The Register as one of the dandy players of the day. Jim Ballantyne, by his assuming and generous nature, endeared himself to everybody he met on and off the football field. Jim Ballantyne is highly respected by all Adelaide business people, just as he was when a smiling lad of 18.”

From The Quotebook... Rooster News - October 1997

“Geez, (Gill’s) an excitement machine, he’s taken some absolutely cracking marks and it’s a pity they’re not all on TV because he would win about 10 cars” – Andrew Jarman



North Adelaide Football Club Annual Reports Covers – A Reflection



North Adelaide Football Club Annual Report - 1960

Barrie Barbary

"All members, players and officials extend congratulations to Barrie on winning both the State and this club's highest award. Barrie participated in every match possible for his club and every Interstate game played throughout the season. Coming from an illustrious football family, he has enjoyed a phenomenal year, also annexing both newspaper awards and Birks' Trophy, a feat that has perhaps never previously been equalled. A pure wingster, he has proved that he has not a peer in that position anywhere our Australian game is played. Still young, he has played 70 league games in four years, is a product of our Colts' team and has already compiled an outstanding record. Opponents and football followers generally have voiced praise for his sportsmanship and ability, and to all of us who know him personally, it is fitting that we record that he is as modest today as when he was playing Colts' football. Congratulations, thanks, and good luck, Barrie, we hope to see you playing for many more years."



"Football Times" - Thursday 18 August 1983

Nunan Wants League Action

"North Adelaide coach Mike Nunan has called on the SANFL to fight the VFL 'tooth and nail' in a bid to stop Melbourne clubs pirating South Australia's young players.

At least seven North players have been signed or are being wooed by VFL clubs. Greg McAdam is drafted to Geelong, Brenton Phillips and Tony Antrobus to Essendon, David Tiller to Richmond and Trevor Clisby to Footscray. Carlton is keen on gaining captain and State defender John Riley and exciting rookie Matthew Campbell is being chased by several clubs.

Nunan said that North is most concerned with the arrogance attitude being displayed by some VFL clubs in regard to recruiting players."

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"Recorder" Monday 6 July 1936

MOUNT AND STIGWOOD IN SMASH

Both Escape Unhurt

"Within three hours of today's principal league football match, three members of North's team against South had lucky escapes from injury in a motor smash at Enfield. Although the tyre and tube were ripped off the rim of one of the back wheels, the footballers - F. Stigwood and C. Mount of Pirie, and M. Trengove - were unhurt.

These players - country members of the North team - were travelling in a motor car along Main North road toward Adelaide, when the car came into collision with a motor lorry at the intersection of Irish Harp road, about noon.

Mr. G.T. Cook... was the driver of the lorry, and Mr. B. Feely, of Pirie, was driving the motor car in which the footballers were passengers.

The front bumper bar of the lorry was torn off, and became wedged into the damaged back wheel of the motor car. The near-side chassis of the lorry was slightly damaged."

From The Newspapers Match Report Quotebook

Theo "Hank" Lindner (1960, Rd 1 v SA)

"When he (T. Lindner) stops an attack you get the same sense of finality; this is for keeps, he seems to say, and he kicks the ball back in the obvious determination that it shall not return" – Jeff Pash, *The News*

Lucas Herbert (2000, Rd 11 v SA)

"Showing how vital ruckman Lucas Herbert is for North, the big man should have been benched as early as the first quarter with a hip injury. Instead, a few local anaesthetics later, he was back on the ground continuing an entertaining duel with Matthew Clarke, Simon Crawshay and Dean Brogan" – *Sunday Mail*

Raymond Ween (1922, Rd 2 v WA)

"Ween, full back, gave a magnificent performance. It was his first senior game, but his play was worthy of a skilled, experienced footballer. Many times this novice beat back fierce attacks single-handed, clearing his zone with beautiful left-leg kicks at very critical periods. For a young player he revealed surprising coolness and judgment" – *The Mail*

(Anthony "Bos") Daly (1907, Rd 3 v St)

"Daly, however, stripped for the red-and-whites, and his reappearance was hailed with satisfaction. The champion proved himself as skilful as ever with the ball, and his goal shooting was beyond reproach" – *The Register*

Chris Ladhams (2003, Rd 10 v CD)

"Surprisingly omitted from the Crows, Chris Ladhams tried his best to get North into the game, racking up a mammoth 40 possessions to send a strong signal to Adelaide's match committee. His work rate was supreme in following up his own disposals and he produced North's only highlight of the day late in the third quarter when he threaded through a goal on the boundary line from 45 metres out" – *Sunday Mail*

John Riley

"Perhaps the best of a very even team was half-back flanker John Riley. To describe this class defender as reliable would be an understatement" – *The Advertiser* (1985, Rd 13 v Wv)

"Captain John Riley was all class and perpetual motion in the pivot" – *The Advertiser* (1982, Rd 2 v WT)

"But except for maybe (Andrew) Jarman, no-one troubled West more than John Riley. His was a sensational performance right across the North defence. He grabbed 10 important marks and bamboozled West with his running and creative handball. Had it not been for him it is possible West might have pinched victory" – *The Advertiser* (1985, Prelim v WA)

"John Riley was best player on the ground by a mile. His performance was nothing short of excellent..." – *Football Times* (1985, Prelim v WA)

"When commitment is allied to talent it forms a compelling mixture, as John Riley demonstrated at Prospect. More than anyone else in the often dazzling North battalion, the dependable half-back epitomised the resolution and team spirit which destroyed Woodville by 83 points" – *The Advertiser* (1986, Rd 3 v Wv)

"... one had to admire the control and cool football brain of captain John Riley at centre and all points beyond" – *The Advertiser* (1983, Rd 11 v CD)

Paul Kennett (1953, Rd 12 v GI)

"Glenelg had no answer to attacks launched through North Adelaide half-forward Paul Kennett's flank on Saturday. I was impressed by the almost perfect way Kennett played his position. Invariably his work was finished off with a well-directed drop-kick." – *The Advertiser*

Josh Gum (1998, Rd 12 v WWT)

"... rookie Gum caught everyone by surprise, booting seven goals. After starting in the forward pocket, the 176 cm Port Pirie recruit became the focal point and impressed with his goal sense and marking ability for someone well under the regular height for a full forward" – *Sunday Mail*

Nick Gill (2008, Rd 16 v WWT)

"Out-of-form Crows forward Nick Gill single-handedly revived the Roosters in the third term, kicking four goals straight. His ferocity at the ball led to him being reported for charging, but his attitude inspired teammates and their intensity lifted dramatically after half time" – *Sunday Mail*

Malcolm Dixon (1965, Rd 19 v WT)

"Port Augusta 'flyer' Malcolm Dixon was the power behind the ... win over West Torrens... which put North Adelaide in the top four on Saturday. Despite a heavy blow in the face in the opening minutes, Dixon produced a display of brilliance at half-forward right which brought five goals from his own boot and a flood of chances for teammates. Torrens threw four different opponents against Dixon during the game in vain bids to stop him" – *The Advertiser*