

ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 1

Season 2005 (Thursday 24 March)



Daniel Hargraves started the 2005 season in fine form

With the smell of liniment drifting from the changerooms, the anticipation of a promising season at its doorstep and the excitement filtered around the state it must mean one thing – Round One has arrived. Despite the understandable excitement and build-up all teams encounter when this moment arrives the reality is that the game is worth two premierships points, the same as any other game in the upcoming season. However what does make this round separate to other rounds is how the result can play havoc to a team and its supporter's pre-season confidence via positively or negatively. In 2005, North clearly proved in their first match that any pre-season confidence was clearly justified.

Background

The 2004 season was a resounding success for the NAFC both on and off the field despite not winning the ultimate prize. Off-field North were financially getting back on their feet and on-field, under coach **Andrew Jarman**, the team returned to their first finals series for seven seasons while building much needed credibility along the way. The question was whether the players can continue the journey upward with the extra pressure of success placed upon them. For their first match the Roosters ventured to the Parade and met Norwood, cellar-dwellers in the previous season, on a Thursday night to get the 2005 SANFL season underway.

The Match

A great crowd of over 4,000 was in attendance when the ball was first bounced to start the game on a lovely night for football. With both sides clearing pre-season cobwebs and getting into the hustle and bustle of league footy the first quarter remained a tight contest with neither side getting any ascendancy. In fact even at half time the game was up for grabs with both teams remaining in the contest as North led by nine points at the main break. The contest was pulsating and fast with the ball flowing so freely back and forth into each team's forward arc supporters' heads would be feeling like they were at the Australian Tennis Open watching the tennis ball constantly crossing over its net. North's defence was holding up well with **Jason Roe** and **Josh Coulter** (in his first game for North) in particular rebounding strongly while in attack **Daniel Hargraves** was proving a headache for the Norwood backman. *The Advertiser* certainly captured the exciting atmosphere and the rugged-yet-exciting football displayed:

- “The SANFL faithful flooded into The Parade hungry for the thrills of old-fashioned man-on-man football and Norwood and North Adelaide served up a feast in an electrifying SANFL season-opener last night.”

When the teams returned to the ground for the second half no-one was expecting the 30-minute domination North would undertake to put a strangle-hold of the match. With the midfield creating first use of the ball and their teammates in attack thriving on the opportunities the Roosters put on a clinic with a 10-goal term. **Damon White** joined Hargraves as a pest up forward with his strong marks and accurate goalkicking and onballer **Heath Younie** was joining in on the goalkicking frenzy. By the time the siren ended the third quarter North had kicked 10.2 to 1.0 and lead by 65 points. With the initial excitement of the match diminished due to the large margin the final quarter was less enthralling and sadly North, either by their own inability to remain hungry and focussed, Norwood’s increased effort, or a combination of both, saw Norwood win the final term to peg the margin back to 48 points when the final siren sounded.

Despite the last quarter fadeout North proved they were going to be a force in the competition again with the splendid mix of an offensive mindset blended with a defence that knitted tightly surrounded by ball carriers to clear any danger and a tough midfield that would match it with any other team. *The Advertiser* again highlighted North’s dominance:

- “... the night belonged to the Roosters, whose near arrogance in sharing out the ball, ripping down opponents with lightning tackles and taking on the challenge at every chance has set a tone for the competition to follow. The rough-tough tussle was Australian football as it was designed to be played – fast, furious and highly entertaining.”

With every first game of the season new faces were in red-and-white jumpers with defender **Josh Coulter** (Central), midfielders **Daniel Wise** (Eagles) and **Matthew Krieg** (Central) all joining Jarman’s army, while lanky **Nick Gill** showed in his debut there was something special to tease supporters with and 20 year-old **Matthew Campbell** kicking two goals in his first game to join in the victory. However it was a recruit from the previous year – **Jason Roe** – who was again a perfect player in Jars’ team line-up. As a defender he leapt high to nullify any marking attempts by his opponents yet was instrumental in bringing the ball out from defence to continually set up scoring avenues for North throughout the evening. His 12 touches and three marks brought him three Magarey Medal votes. **Josh Coulter** collected 2 votes for his clearing out of the D50 with thunderous left-footer kicks while **Daniel Hargraves** collected a vote for his 6.2. In fact both he and **Damon White** were highlighted for their dominant display in front of goals by *The Advertiser*:

- “... Roosters twin-gun forwards Damon White (4.2) and Hargraves (6.2) had a night to remember with a stunning double act.”

Others to play well included **Heath Younie** (three goals), **Tim Cook**, **Daniel Wakelin** and **Brett White**. The win made **Mark Jeffries’** 150th game for North extra special while captain **Darry Wintle** enjoyed the win in his 50th game at the helm.

The Aftermath

As history would show the victory did commence a good season for North who made the finals back-to-back and finished 4th back-to-back while debutant’s Nick Gill and Matthew Campbell would both go on to AFL careers.



Jason Roe (against Eagles in Round 7) was dashing and exhilarating while rebounding from defence

Match Details:

North	4.4	8.7	18.9	22.12	144
Norwood	4.2	7.4	8.4	15.6	96
Ground:	Norwood Oval			Crowd:	4,504

Best Players: Cook, D. White, Hargraves, Younie, B. White, Roe, Wakelin, Coulter, Krieg

Scorers: Hargraves 6.2, D. White 4.2, Younie 3.0, Ladhams 2.3, Wise 2.0, M. Campbell 2.0, Gill 1.1, Kaesler 1.0, Bamford 1.0, Coulter 0.2, Jeffries, 0.1, rushed 0.1

The Team:

F: Chris Ladhams, Daniel Hargraves, Heath Younie
HF: Damon White, Nick Gill (debut), Daniel Ebert
C: Scott Bamford, Matthew Krieg (North debut), Darryl Wintle
HB: Tate Kaesler, Stephen Gilham, Josh Coulter (North debut)
B: Adam Heuskes, Jason Roe, Brett White
1R: Daniel Wakelin, Tim Cook, Mark Jeffries
Res: Matthew Campbell (debut), Daniel Wise (North debut), Luke Ivens

Stats Fact

- North's 22.12 (144) – 9th highest ever against Norwood and their 4th highest score at Norwood Oval;
- North's 10.2 (62) third quarter score – 2nd highest against Norwood and highest at Norwood Oval;

Round 1 Stats Fact

- North's 22.12 (144) – 5th highest score kicked;
- North-Norwood 240-point match aggregate – 8th highest total;
- North's 10.2 third quarter score – highest score;



The Catalysts and debutants from the Round One clash – Tim Cook and Josh Coulter were dynamic while Nick Gill and Matthew Campbell were promising in their first game.

**David O'Hara
History Committee**