

# ROOSTER REMINISCES

*A look back at a memorable match from each round*

## Round 7

**Season 2006 (Saturday 13 May)**



*Big forward Owen Weatherley takes a screamer in the 2006 clash against Port Adelaide*

No team likes to make excuses in a loss but injuries are one thing teams can be justified to use for a poor performance. This was the case North would have been justified to use when they met Port in 2006 in a top-of-the-table clash when the Roosters were plagued by injury – even to the point of having to debut two new incumbents into the highly-anticipated clash. But did the magnitude of injuries and the bleeding of new kids stop the Roosters? No way.

### **Background**

A big game was in store for the Round Seven 2006 clash when Port Adelaide, undefeated and flying, travelled to Prospect Oval to take on second-place North Adelaide who had only lost one game by that stage. Despite the early wins North were starting to struggle keeping their best side on the track. Highly anticipated key forward **Clint Alleway** was still weeks away from his first ever match for the club, **Daniel Hargraves** was missing for the past two weeks, **Josh Francou**, returning after retiring from AFL, was injured long term and other new recruits **Steven Koops** and **Kingsley Walker** were also struggling to stay on the field. To add insult to injury the 68-point defeat against Central the week before the Port clash was not only a confidence crush but resulted in captain **Darryl Wintle**, **Brett White** and the effervescent **Nick Gill**, all automatic selections, spending more time in the medical room than on the track and were subsequently out of the big game. Coach **Andrew Jarman**, whether by the twist of so many players unavailable or good judgment, decided to debut two young players for their first league battle: defender **Andrew McIntyre** and onballer **Todd Pfeiffer**.

### **The Match**

A crowd of nearly 5,000 was in attendance as the umpire bounced the ball to start the game. Port and North both traded forward entries and in a tight first term nothing was in it with Port leading by a slender eight-point lead. The match continued to be an intriguing one with neither side backing down between tough contests and hard bumps with quick ball movement and good skills evident. With every North attempt to balance the scorecard Port would push away again – partly due to North's 4.5 poor efficiency at goal and Port's accurate 5.0 result – to leave Port only nine points ahead at the main break.

The second half remained a competitive one but Port's ability to break away was becoming a concern as they jumped to a 23-point lead during the term. North, not denying Port total control nor showing any

signs of giving in hit back with the last goal of the term to peg the margin to 16 points. A tough challenge was in front of North and coach **Andrew Jarman**, in his 50<sup>th</sup> game at the reins, needed to inspire his troops for any chance of victory. Whatever was said worked and North overrun the Magpies in the final quarter including an inspirational goal by debutant **Todd Pfeiffer** to help break the game open. North exciting football brought upon 7.5 quarter and restricted Port to a paltry 1.1. As the siren sounded there was enormous excitement as North's club song was bellowing around the ground. It was such a gallant, big-hearted, determined victory which the *Sunday Mail* captured:

- “Big, bold North Adelaide out-toughed the tough guys to bring down the previously undefeated Port Adelaide... in a high-standard clash at Prospect yesterday. The injury-depleted Roosters played a classic final quarter of desperation football with a blend of skills and fearsome attack to kick 7.5 to just 1.1, leaving the Magpies ragged.”

North's win was a team victory with the “all played well” card deserving in this instance – but there were some players worthy of mention. **Matthew Krieg** continued his early season good form as he collected 27 possessions, eight marks, eight crunching tackles and a goal as fellow onballer and tough-nut **Dean Howard** was inspirational for the young players around him. His 23 disposals, four tackles while bagging three goals were via a never-say-die attitude and the desire to succeed. **Luke Ivens** denied repeated Port attacks with 19 kicks and nine handballs, **Chris Ladhams** was everywhere with 26 kicks and two goals while **Heath Younie** (26 touches), back-pocket nimble **Daniel Ebert** (20) and **Scott Bamford** (17) were noticeable. **Bamford**, in fact, was the umpires best player collecting 3 Magarey Medal votes while under-rated **Shaun Gatto** (16 disposals) collected two votes. Port's Bullen collected the third vote.

In fact even the two debutants caught the eye of the media for their first up performances:

- “Every Roosters player contributed to the inspiring victory. Debutants **Todd Pfeiffer** and **Andrew McIntyre** impressed with poise under extreme pressure.”

The charismatic **Andrew Jarman** created a win for the ages and the *Sunday Mail* was keen to acknowledge his impact on the game:

- “Coach **Andrew Jarman** also deserves mention for lifting his players to victory when the SANFL football community believed they didn't stand a chance with six stars out injured.”



*Action from the match: Speedster Matthew Campbell snaps the ball forward and nuggetty onballer Tate Kaesler (with Daniel Wakelin looking on) prepares to grab the footy*

### **The Aftermath**

The win kept second-place North threatening top position which they finally grabbed and held from Round 10 only to fall to second with five rounds to go. North would finish 3<sup>rd</sup> losing the Preliminary Final against eventual premiers Woodville-West Torrens. Port, incidentally, would drop to 5<sup>th</sup> with 11 wins (after winning their first five).



*Winners are grinners: Debutants Andrew McIntyre and Todd Pfeiffer sing the club song as victors while Patron Rob Gerard soaks in the triumph (with Darren Jarman (left) and Ben Walton)*

**Match Details:**

North	3.1	7.6	10.8	<b>17.13</b>	<b>115</b>
Port	4.3	9.3	13.6	<b>14.7</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Ground:</b>	Prospect Oval			<b>Crowd:</b>	4,819

**Best Players:** Krieg, Howard, Ladhams, Ivens, Younie, D. Ebert, Bamford, Schubert, M. Campbell, Gatto

**Scorers:** Bamford 3.2, Howard 3.1, Ladhams 2.1, Pfeiffer 2.1, M. Campbell 2.1, Weatherley 2.1, Krieg 1.1, D. Ebert 1.0, O'Hara 1.0, Younie 0.2, Walton 0.1, Ivens 0.1, rushed 0.1

**The Team:**

- F: Tate Kaesler, Brett O'Hara, Owen Weatherley
- HF: Scott Bamford, Simon Cox, Matthew Campbell
- C: Leigh Ryswyk, Chris Ladhams, Andrew Moritz
- HB: Heath Younie, Shane Schubert, Luke Ivens
- B: Andrew McIntyre (debut), Michael Haseldine, Daniel Ebert
- 1R: Daniel Wakelin, Dean Howard, Matthew Krieg
- Res: Ben Walton, Shaun Gatto, Todd Pfeiffer (debut)

**Stats Fact**

- North's 7.5 (47) final quarter score – 3<sup>rd</sup> highest against Port at Prospect Oval;

**Round 7 Stats Fact**

- nil

**David O'Hara  
History Committee**