

# ROOSTER REMINISCES

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

## Round 11

**Season 1963 (Saturday 29 June)**



*The great Don Lindner (in action in Round 14, 1963 vs Norwood) was at his best against West Torrens in the top of the table Round 11 clash*

Fingernails never cop so much biting as they do in a tight, low scoring contest. The exciting climax to a close contest gets the heart palpitating, the fears of the game being lost in the last moments of the game always in the back of minds. In 1963 North were involved in a battle that no doubt tore hair out for North supporters frustrated by their player's inability to not put their good work into scoring opportunities. Bad kicking is bad football, and, topped with some dubious umpiring decisions against them in the final moments, North were forced to wait until the absolute final moments to conclude if their inaccuracies were going to come back to haunt them.

### **Background**

After Round 10 of the 1963 season North Adelaide and West Torrens were perched at the top two positions of the ladder with eight and six wins respectively. It was therefore an afternoon much anticipated with excitement when the two met for the Round 11 encounter at Adelaide in front of a huge crowd. Both had quality players within their teams and a closer game was expected than their clash only three rounds earlier when Torrens defeated North by 67 points at Thebarton Oval. Could North balance the books and inflict revenge on the Eagles?

### **The Match**

The match was not full of great goals, brilliant highlights but rather a torrid tussle between the current heavyweights of the competition. And the scoreboard didn't clearly provide a clear indication of what the game involved. North burst out of the gate and were 28 points up at the first bell. What wasn't foreseen was that three more goals would be kicked by the red-and-whites for the remainder of the match – with the third in the dying minutes of the game!

Torrens began the climb back into the match in the second term kicking a slightly inaccurate 4.7 to North's 7.5 at the main break. But it was North's third quarter that would prove frustrating to anyone in the Roosters corner. North dominated proceedings but kicked only 12 behinds for the quarter while Torrens' 2.2 brought the match back in the balance. In the last term Torrens forged ahead to kick the first 19 points to North's solitary point which established a six-point lead late in the final term. With the final seconds ticking away North's rover **Billy Thomas** kicked had a shot from an acute angle – and

kicked it! It was the only goal by North in the last half and ultimately saved them from an exasperating loss. The match was a draw and whilst North would have been disappointed that costly misses blew their chances of an easy victory they would also feel fortunate to have come out with one point for the afternoon's efforts.

*The Advertiser* summarised in its report the dominance North held that wasn't reflected on the board:

- "It attacked almost continuously in the third quarter, and it was only the ferocious defending... which prevented its establishing a match-winning lead before the last change. North kicked only one goal in the second half, yet it could be forgiven for claiming that it was the better team on the day. It won the rucks, with **Don Lindner**, **(Dudley) Hill** and **(Geoff) Jones** and **(Bob) Pascoe** all doing their share, and **(Ray) Trenorden** and **(Billy) Thomas** getting full value from their rucks' superior knocking out."

While North made the match closer than it should have been due to their lacklustre goalkicking another area of frustration formed in some umpiring decisions in the last quarter by field umpire Ken Cunningham. *The Advertiser* highlighted this as well in their report:

- "Torrens benefited from several frees in scoring range in the last quarter, and North players hotly disputed umpire Cunningham's failure to give free kicks to North forward Maurice Martin on the two occasions they claimed he was interfered with in the last 10 minutes."



*Umpire Ken Cunningham, who was involved questionable decisions late in the clash, in North's Round 3 clash earlier in the year. Bob Hammond, Don Knuckey and Jamie Coppins are the North players*

Captain-Coach **Don Lindner** was named best for North but it was his teammate and state wingman **Barrie Barbary** and rover **Ray Trenorden** who were praised for their performances:

- "The thrilling centre-line duel failed to develop. Only **Barbary** played brilliantly...;"
- "**Trenorden**, in particular, roved with great dash, and played a vital role in shutting (West Torrens Lindsay) Head out of a tight, closely fought game."



*Don Lindner in action earlier in the season against Norwood (Rd 6) with forward Maurice Martin looking on*

**Billy Thomas** headed North's goalkickers with three goals however his six behinds let his performance down and nearly cost North their victory although full-forward **Maurice Martin** was also messy with a

1.3 scorecard. Back pocket defender **Geoff Jones**, his side kick **Bob Hammond** playing at full back and versatile forward/ ruckman **Dudley Hill** were also named in the best players.

### **The Aftermath**

After Torrens finished minor premiers they were knocked out of the finals with successive losses when North defeated them in the Preliminary final in another close encounter. North, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> coming into the finals, played Port Adelaide in the Grand Final where they were no match to the Magpies who defeated them by 33 points.

As supporters headed out Prospect Oval after the strange draw in Round 11 I'm sure the discussions included bad kicking for goal and questionable umpiring decisions – how times have (not) changed.



*Four prominent players in the 1963 season discuss tactics before the 1963 finals series:  
Don Lindner, Barrie Barbary, Geoff Jones and Bob Pascoe*

### **Match Details:**

North	5.5	7.5	7.17	<b>8.17</b>	<b>65</b>
Torrens	1.1	4.7	6.9	<b>9.11</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Ground:</b>	Prospect Oval			<b>Crowd:</b>	12,200

**Best Players:** D. Lindner, Barbary, Trenorden, Jones, Hammond, Hill

**Goalkickers:** Thomas 3.6, Martin 1.3, Murch 1.2, Sheridan 1.1, Paull 1.1, Hill 1.0, Pascoe 0.1, D. Lindner 0.1, Trenorden 0.1, rushed 0.1

### **The Team:**

F: Dudley Hill, Maurice Martin, Billy Thomas  
HF: Michael Sheridan, Denis Murch, Geoff Paull  
C: Barrie Barbary, Malcolm Dixon, Bob Geisler  
HB: Adrian Sutter, Kevin Barr, Jamie Coppins  
B: Don Knuckey, Bob Hammond, Geoff Jones  
1R: Don Lindner, Bob Pascoe, Ray Trenorden  
Res: Theo Lindner, John Page

### **Stats Fact**

- North's 12 behinds in the third quarter – most behinds in a quarter ever against West Torrens and equal 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in any match;
- North have had 26 draws in their career, including two against West Torrens and 7 at Prospect Oval

### **Round 11 Stats Fact**

- North's 12 behinds in the third quarter – most behinds in a quarter;
- North's only draw played in this round