

ROOSTER REMINISCES

A look back at a memorable match from each round

Round 16 Season 1982 (Saturday 17 July)



*The wonderful Greg McAdam flies high over a contest during the Round 16 battle against Port.
Trevor Clisby is in the front of the clash*

Last week we looked back in 1936 and recounted a wonderful underdog victory by North against the more highly-fancied Port Adelaide. Zoom forward to 1982 and North and Port were again in a similar position. Though a chance for a finals position was unlikely for North, it never is a bad time to smash the black-and-whites... especially when they don't expect it!

Background

Coming into the latter part of the 1982 season Port and North were heading in different directions on the premiership ladder. Port were flying high sitting comfortably in 2nd position while North were struggling in 8th position with only six wins (including three in the opening three games). The match between the two at Football Park was a match with no high expectations and Port set to go along their merry way. In a twist of fate North met the powerful Port contingent the same weekend that the South Australia state side was playing. Port were missing names like Tim Evans, Russell Ebert, Craig Bradley, Greg Phillips, Paul Belton and Tony Giles to state representation while North were missing captain **John Riley** (state) and dynamic rover **Tony Antrobus** (injury). North were still not expected to get close to Port despite the selection situation.

The Match

North Adelaide could not have been more ready to play a game of football than they did on this day. Primed from the outset they were simply switched on and immediately took ownership of the match by swarming into contests, winning one-on-one battles and having dominant performers around the ground. North kicked a brilliant 7.4 for the first term – but just as incredible was Port's inability to goal and be held to one point at the first break. North continued their supremacy with another seven-goal term in the second quarter to lead by an astonishing 52 points at the main break. **Mick Redden**, in ruck, was providing his onballers first use, first-year full-forward **Grenville Dietrich** was enjoying the ball entering his area with regularity and direct, and **Craig Stanbridge** was leading a miserly backline filled with run and brutality.

Any thought of Port coming out firing in the second half was quickly washed away as the Roosters continuing to play unbelievable football to kick 6.7 to Port's 0.3 and the margin increasing to a staggering 92-points. Those looking at the score on scoreboards at other venues would have thought the attendant and got the team mixed up when placing score updates!

The performances of both teams was so unexpected the Julian Swinstead, journalist from *The Advertiser*, needed to double check a few things:

- “Halfway through the third term North was so dominant that I did a count of the red and white guernseys on the field. Sure enough, it was 18.”

North's last quarter continued to build with the margin jumping over the 100-point milestone only for Port to kick a bunch of late goals to reduce the final margin to 79 points brought about through North's tiredness and Port's ability to run the game out. The final siren was greeted with cheers and applause from the loyal red-and-white faithful never expecting the result they witnessed.

The reports from the game naturally praised North's heroic performance:

- North Adelaide shattered a depleted Port Adelaide to stage a magnificent upset win, set one record and almost create two more at Football Park yesterday. Twenty North players had smiles as wide as the Football Park gates in the change rooms after the match as they celebrated their 79-point victory. The Magpies robbed North in the last quarter of the chance of setting a record for the biggest defeat inflicted upon Port and of being the only team to down the side by more than 100 points. North led by 102 points for much of the first half of the last term, but a belated fightback which had little influence on the game, dragged the Roosters down.”

North still collected a number of pleasing records against Port (refer below).

It was a match clearly won by team ethic and clean, quick football:

- “North had winners all over the ground. Where the Magpies hunted in twos, the Roosters ran in packs – four or five red and white guernseys streaking down the ground. The North handball was crisp and accurate and the kicking was just as good” – *The Advertiser*.

But within this a number of fine contributors stood out for North Adelaide:

- “North's brilliant win had its beginnings in the magnificent form of follower **David Tiller** and centreman **Bill Lokan**, but the success was a result of the best team effort North has put together all season” – *Sunday Mail*;
- “North's assault began from the centre. **Mick Redden** tore the Port rucks apart and was ably assisted in the middle by **David Tiller** and **Bill Lokan**. Between the three of them they must have had 80 to 90 touches” – *The Advertiser*;
- “**Wayne Stringer** has spent most of his league career as a goal stopper, but this time he was a goal kicker and a creator of chances for others to score goals and he did it so well, while changing with **David Tiller**. He was like a well-known brand of whiskey – smooth and good enough to go on forever. A real touch of class” – *Football Times*;
- “North's half back trio of **Peter Holman**, **Craig Stanbridge** and **Michael Armfield** were downright rude to their Magpie opponents and hardly gave them a sniff of the ball let alone a touch. Their rebound was excellent and it worked as neatly as though it had been traced on a blackboard. They played with command and authority. This line possibly dictated the trend of the game more than any other during the entire game” – *Football Times*;

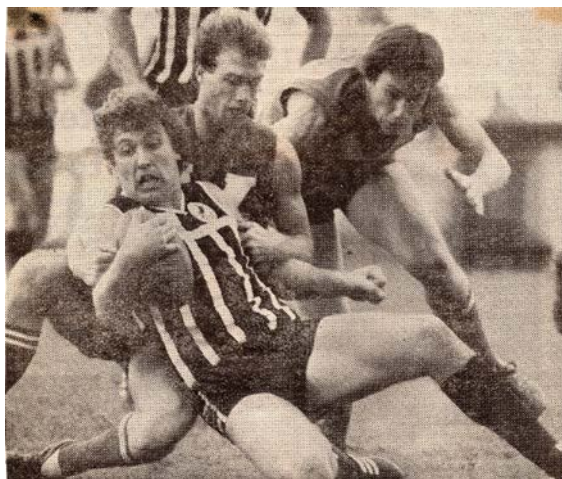
Tiller collected 22 kicks, eight handballs and three goals in a superb performance filled with impeccable skills, smart decision making and penetrating kicking, fellow onballer **Lokan** clocked up 40 disposals and a goal, **Dietrich** kicked 6.2 including his 50th for the season, and **Wayne Stringer's** 18 kicks and a score of 5.2 was a great contribution. Amazingly the impenetrable half-back line of **Paul Holman**, **Craig Stanbridge** and **Michael Armfield** proved a statistical frenzy with an unbelievable 45 kicks, 21 marks, 35 handballs between them (**Holman** 16, 7, 10, **Stanbridge** 18, 8, 13, **Armfield** 11, 6, 12).

The fact that the State match robbed Port of a number of their finest would no doubt raise its ugly head. But this was quelled by the *Sunday Mail*:

- “While Port had eight players in Perth with the SA team, the Roosters probably would have won had Port fielded its regular team.”

But it was best summed up by North’s coach Mike Nunan, not one to hold back from telling it as he sees it:

- “As North coach Mick Nunan said in between smiles after the game: “Sure, Port had players in Perth. But every football scribe still picked them to win. Didn’t you?”



Paul Arnold and John Brealey pressure Port during the Round 16 victory

The Aftermath

North’s victory (with its follow up win against finals-set Glenelg the following weekend) may not have helped their late quest for finals action in 1982 but the confidence the club and players gained was invaluable for a 1983 season which is remembered as the start of a historic and successful period in the club’s history.

Match Details:

North	7.4	14.5	20.12	25.14 164 (79)
Port	0.1	5.7	5.10	12.13 85
Ground:	Football Park		Crowd:	7,683

Best Players: Tiller, Lokan, Redden, C. Stanbridge, Brealey, W. Stringer, Dietrich, L. Stanbridge, Holman, Klomp

Goalkickers: Dietrich 6.2, W. Stringer 5.2, A. Stringer 3.1, Clisby 3.0, Tiller 3.0, Klomp 2.1, Phillips 1.1, Owens 1.1, Lokan 1.1, McAdam 0.2, L. Stanbridge 0.2, rushed 0.1

The Team:

F: Wayne Stringer, Grenville Dietrich, David Owens
HF: Greg McAdam, Alan Stringer, Trevor Clisby
C: Brenton Phillips, Bill Lokan, Leigh Stanbridge
HB: Peter Holman, Craig Stanbridge (50th game), Michael Armfield
B: Stephen Molloy, Paul Arnold, John Brealey
1R: Michael Redden, David Tiller, Kim Klomp
Res: Brenton Little, Paul Zoontjens

Stats Fact

- North's 25.14 (164) – highest ever against Port and 6th highest score at Football Park against all teams;
- 79-point winning margin – 2nd biggest against Port, 7th biggest at Football Park against all teams and biggest against Port at Football Park;
- Port's 12.13 (85) Losing Score – 3rd highest against North at Football Park;
- 249-point match – 2nd highest in North-Port matches at Football Park;
- 7.4 (46) first-quarter score – 4th highest against Port at any ground and highest at Football Park);
- 7.1 (43) second-quarter score – 8th highest against Port at any ground and 2nd highest at Football Park);
- 6.7 (41) third-quarter score – 2nd highest against Port at Football Park;
- Port's 7.3 (45) final quarter score – 3rd highest against North at Football Park;
- Grenville Dietrich's 6 goals - =8th highest at Football Park against all teams and equal highest against Port at Football Park.

Round 16 Stats Fact

- North's 25.14 (164) – 2nd highest score;
- Port's 12.13 (85) Losing Score – 3rd highest against;
- 79-point winning margin – 5th biggest margin;
- 249-point match – 8th highest match aggregate;
- North's 7.4 (46) 1st quarter – 4th highest 1st quarter;
- North's 7.1 (43) 2nd quarter – 7th highest 2nd quarter;
- Port's 7.3 (45) 4th quarter – 6th highest against North;

David O'Hara
History Committee