

# ROOSTER REMINISCES

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

## Round 3

### Season 2000 (Saturday 25 March)



*Scott Sutherland (in 1998) led North to their victory at Unley Oval*

“They” say a win is just a win but that is generally from those whose teams are going through a successful phase. There are indeed times when your team is triumphant and it is blatantly obvious from the outpour of emotion from everyone within the club that the victory just simply wasn’t just “another” victory. In periods of success it is easy for the euphoria and enjoyment of your team’s success to be somewhat diluted however when the wins have dried up, and the club and players are putting blood, sweat and tears into every match with little success the long-awaited arrival of a win holds no dilution in the celebrating. In fact they are the ones to savour. Sure, they are not up there with premierships or finals victories but for emotion, to finally enjoy the final siren bellowing and the club song beaming across the ground after the match, are what brings everyone together. And one of those occasions was 49 years and one round after last week’s Rooster Reminisces against the same team at the same location – Unley Oval.

#### **Background**

It doesn’t need to be repeated how tough the late 1990s and early 2000s were for the North Adelaide Club. In 1999 North only won two matches and took the wooden spoon for the first time since 1978 and coming to Unley Oval in their Round 3 contest in 2000 had lost 12 out of the past 31 games with a draw at Noarlunga two weeks earlier the only occasion the opposition club song hadn’t been sung. Sturt were keen on continuing their 1999 form which took them to the finals while North was still trying to create some self-belief. Ironically North sat above Sturt on the ladder after two rounds due to Sturt losing both teams and North’s draw but North continued to live in hope, not expectation, for a victory.

#### **The Match**

The day was sunny and perfect for football and the game’s intensity and performances from both sides proved greater than the small hype that preceded the match. In a tight first term both teams struggled to place scoreboard pressure and the result would be an even score on the scoreboard – both kicking an inaccurate 3.5. The second term proved the catalyst for what would become North’s much-anticipated victory. After neither team could get any break it was finally North Adelaide that stepped up to take the game by its throat. In an outstanding period North piled on 6.3 to nothing from the 19-minute mark of the term to blow the game open to finish with an 8.4 term to Sturt’s wasteful 1.7. North’s midfield were on top with **Darryl Wintle**, and ruckman **Lucas Herbert** controlling the square, Central

recruit **Scott Stevens** was playing his best game for North on a forward-flank while captain **Scott Sutherland** was (again) leading by example from his customary half-back role.

The quarter was supported by rousing Roosters supporters who embraced the type of football that had been missing in North performances for so long. However when a team has been regularly defeated – and by every way possible - an air of uncertainty still gripped the supporters despite the 39-point buffer. And there was justification in their concern when Sturt proceeded to outplay North in the important third quarter when they kicked 9.3 to North's 3.3 leaving the red-and-whites less than a goal ahead at the final break.

“Here we go again” were the murmurs around the mass of the North allegiance in the near-3,000 crowd naturally feeling North will succumb to another defeat from the jaws of victory. But alas this afternoon was to prove different. In a determined and lively final term North were not going to be denied. While Sturt muffed any opportunities they had with poor shots at goal North were maximising theirs to kick 6.3 to Sturt's 2.6 that gave the Roosters a 24-point victory. North had done it. They had won for the first time after a 16-game non-winning streak. A jubilant team was cheered from the ground by ecstatic supporters and supporting crew. *The Advertiser* summed up the moment:

- “North Adelaide awoke in spectacular fashion to give Sturt a ... punishing 24-point beating in a bruising encounter;”
- “New-look North has a bit of self-belief, is playing with spirit and system... but is this the start of a golden run for the Roosters?”

**Scott Sutherland** was brilliant in the victory marshalling the backlines while collecting 18 kicks, six handballs as well as eight crucial marks. **Darryl Wintle** was crafty in the midfield and his 25 disposals were finely tuned and regularly brought teammates into the play, **Aaron Byerlee** (16 kicks, five handballs) was prominent, **Scott Bamford** was explosive with his pace and reading of the game to collect 24 touches on his wing while forward **Daniel Hargraves** (eight marks, 15 kicks) could have made his game better had his personal 3.3 scoreboard been more accurate.

The umpires also found North had the best three players on the ground and voted **Scott Sutherland** (three), **Scott Stevens** (two) and **Scott Bamford** (one) top honours for the day. In fact the match was the first time since North last win (Round 7, 1999) that North received all three votes from the umpires.

### **The Aftermath**

Whilst the jubilation of the win was still soaking in *The Advertiser* was certainly clearer in their assessment of North's victory:

- “North Adelaide's strong win... might be the catalyst for a long-awaited revival – but there is a long road ahead.”

This would prove true as West Adelaide sent them back to reality nudging out a close win. North would go on win two more games yet surprisingly did not “earn” the wooden spoon – the Round One draw enough to place them above Glenelg. There would also be longer streaks of losses until 2004 when they would reach the finals once again. But like this 2000 victory when you don't know when the next will come each they are truly cherished.



*Darryl Wintle (in 1998) was dominant in the midfield in their long-awaited victory*

### **Match Details:**

North	3.5	11.9	14.12	<b>20.15</b>	<b>135</b>
Sturt	3.5	4.12	13.15	<b>15.21</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Ground:</b>	Unley Oval			<b>Crowd:</b>	2,895

**Best Players:** Sutherland, Wintle, Stevens, Byerlee, Bamford, Herbert, Newberry, Morgan, Hargraves, Jeffries

**Scorers:** Bamford 4.1, Hargraves 3.3, Jeffries 3.2, Leal 3.0, Herbert 2.1, Setchell 1.1, Kellett 1.1, Ebert 1.1, T. White 1.1, Peucker 1.0, Pech 0.1, Byerlee 0.1, Sutherland 0.1, rushed 0.1

### **The Team:**

F: Scott Leal, Stephen Pech, Mark Jeffries  
HF: Aaron Byerlee, Daniel Hargraves, Scott Stevens  
C: Scott Bamford, Darryl Wintle, Josh Newberry  
HB: Simon Peucker, Ben Nichol, Scott Sutherland  
B: Tim Swann, Michael Burford, Adam Morgan  
1R: Lucas Herbert, Graeme Kellett, Ben Setchell  
Res: Robbie Brodhurst (debut), Daniel Ebert, Travis White

### **Stats Fact**

- North's 20.15 (135) – 4<sup>th</sup> highest score at Unley Oval;
- North's 8.4 (52) second quarter score – 5<sup>th</sup> highest at Unley Oval;
- North-Sturt 246-point match aggregate – 5<sup>th</sup> highest at Unley Oval;
- Sturt's 15.21 (111) – 3<sup>rd</sup> highest by Sturt against North in any match and highest against North at Unley Oval;
- Sturt's 9.3 (57) third quarter score – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest at Unley Oval;

### **Round 3 Stats Fact**

- North's 20.15 (135) – 8<sup>th</sup> highest score kicked;
- North's 8.4 (52) second quarter score – 6<sup>th</sup> highest score;
- North-Sturt 246-point match aggregate – 6<sup>th</sup> highest total;
- Sturt's 15.21 (111) – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest losing score against North;
- Sturt's 9.3 (57) third quarter score – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest score;
- Sturt's 21 behinds – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest amount;

**David O'Hara**  
**History Committee**