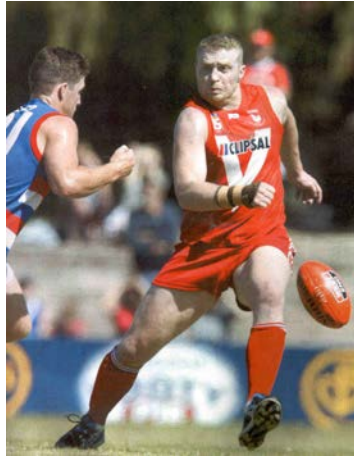


# ROOSTER REMINISCES

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

## Round 6

### Season 2003 (Saturday 3 May)



*North's recruit Ryan O'Connor (against Central in the 2003 opening match) was one the best against Port Adelaide in Round 6*

2003 wasn't a season of fond memories with only one win for the season. It would therefore be fathomable that the one afternoon when the club sang the song after the game would be sweet to reminisce. But when the one and only win is against Port Adelaide then it makes that victory even more memorable. In a dark era the Round 6 game in 2003 was one afternoon all red-and-white diehards enjoyed.

#### **Background**

North were finding things tough in 2003 with coach **Darel Hart's** efforts to find a winning formula a difficult task once again. With disappointing seasons previously North were hoping for a turnaround in 2003. A very, very disappointing first game loss against Central District put the club on the back foot and with three further losses it was not surprising that North had been given no chance to defeat Port, despite Port themselves finding wins difficult to come by, when they met at Prospect Oval.

#### **The Match**

With North a team struggling to kick winning scores it came as a slight surprise that the first quarter saw both teams having a positive effect on the scoreboard. The battle was quite tight with both clubs getting a number of chances to score which eventuated in producing a 10-goal term thanks to five goal contributions from each team. North continued to maximise their limited forward entries in the second term kicking an accurate 7.1 while the Magpies kicked a more lacklustre 5.8. Surprisingly North led by 2 points in a high scoring contest in front of a confusing crowd of 3,296 with a North kicking a dead-eye-dick 12 goals from their first 12 shots at goal (their only behind kicked in time-on in the second quarter) keeping them in the clash.

It would have been a totally understandable evaluation based on North's recent performances to predict Port would simply step up to another level and leave North in its wake in the second half – but not this afternoon! The tight battle on the field and on the scoreboard intensified even greater as the game rolled along with both teams scoring regularly in a highly entertaining game where defence was secondary to an offensive game plan. In the high scoring encounter both teams had kicked over 100

points before the third quarter had ended: North due to their incredible accuracy (16.5) sitting 10 points in arrear of the inaccurate Port (16.15). The scene was set for a do-or-die final term.

In a see-sawing last term it was the Roosters that would slowly pull away from their opposition. **Lucas Herbert** and **Daniel Hargraves** remained key forwards to direct the ball towards and North's midfield led by ruckman (and ex-Port player) **Ryan O'Connor** dominating proceedings. During the final term North's ability to hit the scoreboard with 6.3 was as important as their last quarter resilient defence to restrict Port to 2.2 – all resulting in a 15-point final margin to the Roosters. Whilst North have beaten Port by greater margins and most certainly played better matches the fact this win came from a time when victory was simply unexpected made the triumph even sweeter.

North shared the best players as much as they shared the goalkickers. **Ryan O'Connor's** virtuoso performance in ruck was vital in the match as he gathered midfield-style stats with 12 kicks, six marks, 11 handballs to go along with his 22 hit-outs. Ever-reliable **Scott Bamford** (26 disposals) was effective on his wing, recruit **Chad Davis'** 19 kicks were collected despite tough opposition while still finding opportunities up forward to kick three critical goals. **Luke Ivens** and **Travis Gluschenko** were solid in defence while up forward the two-prong talls in **Daniel Hargraves** and **Lucas Herbert** finished off the hard work upfield, both collecting a great return of 4.1 and 5.1 respectively.

The surprise packet for North was small-rover **Ryan McGahey** – a player struggling for permanency in the league side – who burrowed into every scrap and contest without self-preservation and came out with 20 disposals, two goals and three Magarey Medal votes. **O'Connor's** ruckwork earned him one vote from the umpires whilst Port's McDowall collected two votes.

The win also brought an end to a 12-game losing sequence against Port that started in 1998.

### The Aftermath

It would be nice to say the win turned the club's season around and we stormed into the finals, but alas the win would prove the only time for the season the club would have their song played after the final siren. By the end of 2003 North had more draws (two) than wins and even the coach didn't make the final minor round. But at least for an afternoon in May 2003 it was North's time to shine.



*Players who had a role in North's long-awaited victory*

### Match Details:

North	5.0	12.1	16.5	<b>22.8</b>	<b>140</b>
Port	5.3	10.11	16.15	<b>18.17</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Ground:</b>	Prospect Oval			<b>Crowd:</b>	3,296

**Best Players:** O'Connor, Bamford, Herbert, Hargraves, Davis, Ivens, Gluschenko, McGahey, Kellett, James

**Scorers:** Herbert 5.1, Hargraves 4.1, Davis 3.1, Grocke 2.1, Younie 2.1, Bamford 2.0, McGahey 2.0, James 1.1, O'Connor 1.0, Morgan 0.1, rushed 0.1

**The Team:**

F: Ryan McGahey, Daniel Hargraves, Paul James  
HF: Heath Younie, Lucas Herbert, Adam Grocke  
C: Scott Bamford, Graeme Kellett, David Allocca  
HB: Cameron Staples, Adam Morgan, Kane McLean  
B: Luke Ivens, Travis Gluschenko, Stephen Gilham  
1R: Ryan O'Connor, Chad Davis, Tim Cook  
Res: Chris Shee, Brett White, Shayne Broad

**Stats Fact**

- North's 22.8 (140) - North's 8<sup>th</sup> highest score against Port and highest scores against Port at Prospect Oval;
- 265-point match aggregate – equal highest between North and Port at Prospect Oval;
- Port's 18.17 (125) – equal 10<sup>th</sup> highest losing score against North in any match, equal 4<sup>th</sup> at Prospect Oval in any match, second highest for Port against North and their highest at Prospect Oval;
- North's 7.1 (43) second quarter score – 3<sup>rd</sup> highest against Port at Prospect Oval.

**Round 6 Stats Fact**

- North's 22.8 (140) - 9<sup>th</sup> highest score;
- Port's 18.17 (125) – Highest losing score;
- 265-point match aggregate – 4<sup>th</sup> highest aggregate;
- North's 7.1 (43) second quarter score – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest.

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