



COMING UP

FOOT-e TIMES SA

STATE GAME ISSUE

MORE ON THE AFL RESEVRES SURVEY

WHAT WE LEARNT FROM ROUND SIX

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STATE GAME PREVIEW**

Out Thursday Morning May 8th

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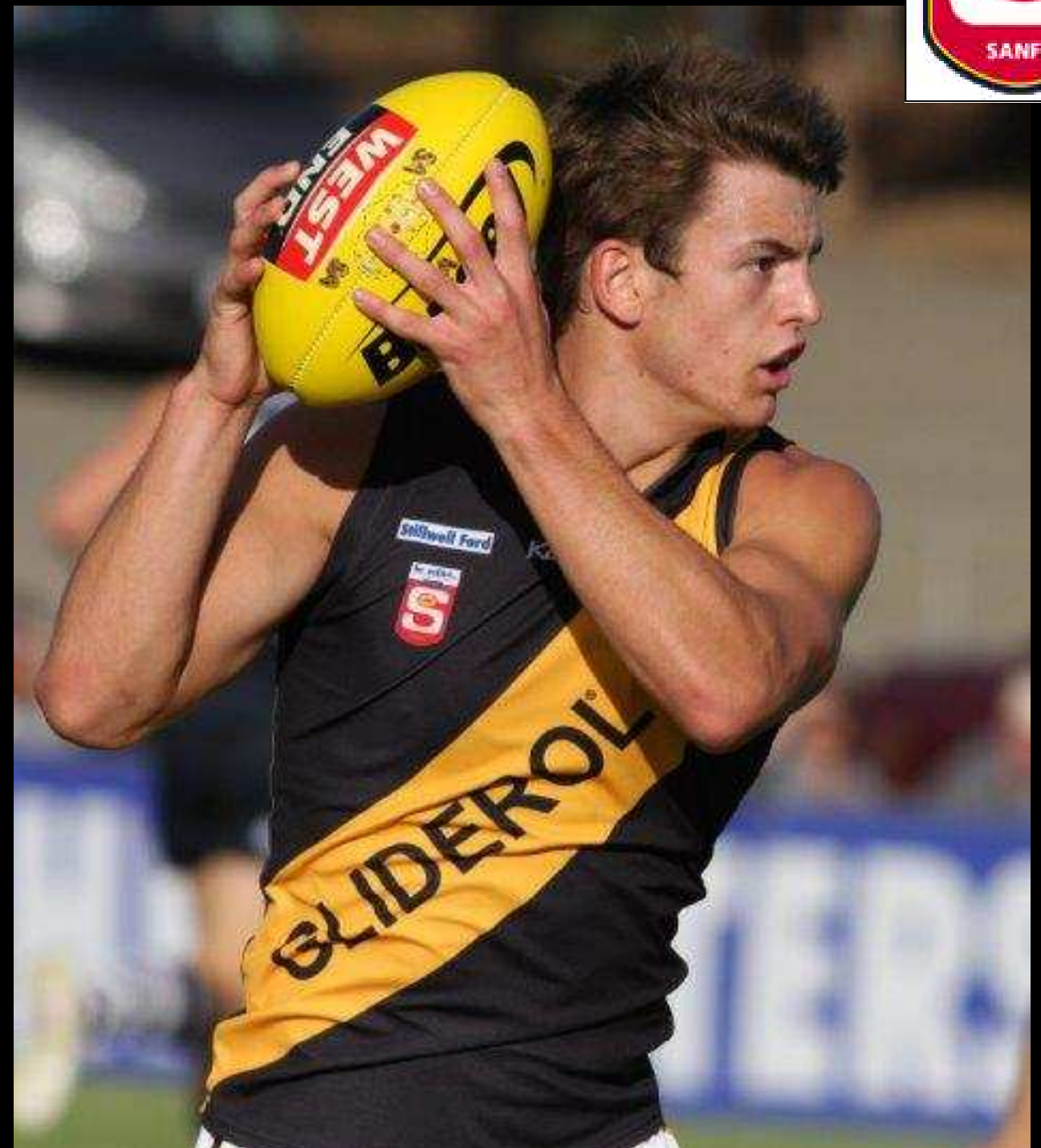
FOOT-e TIMES SA

Comprehensive Coverage of South Australian Football

2013 Round 6 Edition : Thursday May 1

THE TRIBES HAVE SPOKEN

SANFL FANS HAVE SAY ON AFL RESERVES



Crows Listed Jarryd Lyons in Tigers Colours. Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444



FOOT-e TIMES SA

FOOT-e TIMES SA OBJECTIVES

Important issues in South Australian Football will be covered in detail.

There will be a diversity of opinions with every club perspective covered.

Reader contributions will be encouraged

We will have the most comprehensive SANFL Game Previews

We will be a one stop shop for SANFL statistics and media coverage

There will be solid coverage of football beyond just the local SANFL league competition

We will ensure there is regular recognition of our state's football history & heritage.

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PLEASE NOTE

FOOT-e TIMES SA is NOT an official publication of the SANFL or any of its clubs and any opinions carried within this publication should not be taken as those of the SANFL or any of its clubs.

All images courtesy of Peter Argent & available for sale.

2013 ROUND SIX EDITION

Thursday May 2nd 2013

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WELCOME

SANFL FANS -THIS IS YOUR ISSUE

One thing that sets **FOOT-e TIMES SA** apart from other SANFL coverage is the wide range of diverse opinions provided.

Normally these are from our five man reporting team.. however this time it's the opinions of you, our readers, which matter most.

Over the past four weeks we have run a survey on the biggest issue in local

footy, the introduction of AFL Reserves teams into the SANFL competition

And hundreds of you have taken the time to have your say on this key matter.

In the first of a two part series we look at the Crows Reserves issue.

We will advise what SANFL fans prefer when it comes to a solution to this problem

and what impact chances would have on their support of the competition.

Next week it will be the Power.'s turn

My thanks to all who took part.

See you at the SANFL!

Phil Herden
FOOT-e TIMES SA

Your Thoughts On State Footy?

SANFL Fans

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FEATURE STORY



THE TRIBES HAVE SPOKEN—PART 1

By Phil Herden

Local footy fans have spoken and their warning is ominous.

According to the FOOT-e TIMES SA "PULSE" SURVERY the introduction of AFL Reserves teams into the SANFL league competition will result in a significant drop off in support.

Importantly this reduced support will come mainly from the most loyal supporters who attend the SANFL on a regular basis.

In this first part of a two part series the focus will be on the Crows reserves. Next week it will be the Power's turn.

But first a breakdown of the 375 responders to this survey.

BREAKDOWN BY CLUB SUPPORTED

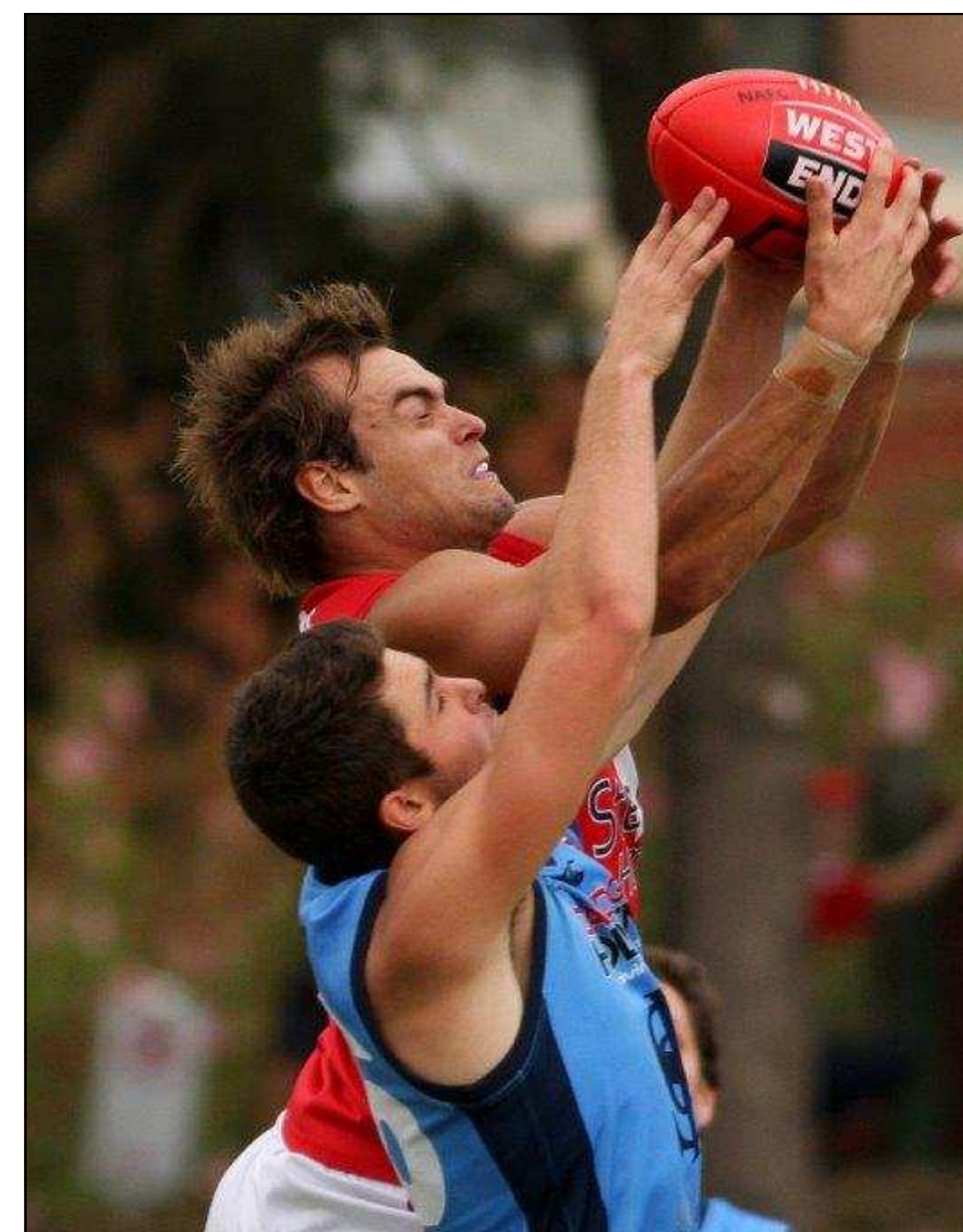
Sturt	18.4%
Port	15.2%
Norwood	14.0%
Central	13.2%
North	10.8%
West	8.0%
South	7.2%
Eagles	6.7%
Glenelg	6.5%

BREAKDOWN BY SUPPORT LEVEL

Season Ticket	44.2%
General Member	19.7%
Home Match Ticket	16.1%
Non Member	13.3%
Player / Official	5.8%

BREAKDOWN BY SANFL GAMES ATTENDED

None	7.2%
1-5 each year	20.5%
6-10 each year	10.8%
11-15 each year	14.1%
16-20 each year	47.4%



Crows listed Lewie Johnston takes a strong mark
Images—Peter Argent 0411 178 444

RD 6: WEST VS GLENELG

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FEATURE STORY



CROWS QUESTION ONE

Does the current system for surplus Crows players need to be changed?

Options

- A) YES—Crows need to have their own side, not spread to other clubs
- B) I don't care either way
- C) NO—The current system is the best for all parties.

Category	A) YES (Own Side)	B) DON'T CARE	C) NO (Status Quo)	NET RESULT
Central fans	7%	10%	83%	NO +76%
Glenelg fans	8%	33%	53%	NO +45%
North fans	20%	20%	60%	NO +40%
Eagles fans	21%	22%	57%	NO +36%
16-20 games attended	24%	12%	64%	NO +40%
West fans	25%	5%	70%	NO +45%
6-10 games attended	26%	11%	63%	NO +37%
Non Port Fans	29%	12%	59%	NO +30%
11-15 games attended	32%	13%	55%	NO +23%
Sturt fans	33%	11%	55%	NO +22%
Norwood fans	34%	13%	53%	NO +19%
EVERYBODY	34.8%	13.3%	51.9%	NO +17.1%
South fans	40%	20%	40%	equal
1-5 games attended	57%	15%	28%	YES +29%
No games attended	64%	24%	12%	YES +32%
Port fans	71%	17%	12%	YES +59%

Most SANFL fans think the status quo is the best system for the Crows with the exception of South fans who are split and Port fans who prefer Crows having own side.

The more games SANFL fans attend the more they appear to think the status quo is best.

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Now that the identical competitors have retired, it is time to lift the lid on their journey, to be recounted in print, with the upcoming release of Two of a Kind, the story of Chris and James Gowans, to be launched at their adopted home, Playford Alive Oval, on April 13, prior to the blockbuster night match between the Bulldogs and reigning premier Norwood.

Written by Central District supporters and freelance journalists Robert Laidlaw and Steve Barrett, Two of a Kind will be a must-read for all Bulldog fans, and those from other persuasions.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
FOOTBALL FANS**



FEATURE STORY



CROWS QUESTION TWO

If the system had to change, rank the following options 1-6 in order of preference.

Options

- A) One Crows side in SANFL League Competition
- B) One Crows side in SANFL Reserves Competition
- C) One Crows side in another competition (ie VFL, SA Amateurs)
- D) One Crows side in an AFL Reserves Competition
- E) Crows aligned with one SANFL Host club in with players in league & reserves
- F) Don't Care Not An Issue for me

Category	A) SANFL LEAGUE	B) SANFL RESERVES	C) VFL OR SAAFL	D) AFL RESERVES	E) HOST CLUB	F) DONT CARE
Glenelg fans	6th (5.17)	3rd (2.92)	2nd (2.08)	1st (1.75)	4th (4.50)	5th (4.58)
Norwood fans	5th (4.90)	3rd (2.97)	2nd (2.03)	1st (1.65)	4th (4.35)	6th (5.10)
Central fans	6th (4.89)	3rd (2.81)	2nd (2.19)	1st (1.56)	=4th (4.78)	=4th (4.78)
Eagles fans	4th (4.64)	3rd (2.86)	2nd (1.93)	1st (1.79)	5th (4.71)	6th (5.07)
16-20 games attended	5th (4.62)	3rd (3.04)	2nd (2.18)	1st (1.82)	4th (4.41)	6th (4.91)
North fans	6th (4.43)	3rd (3.26)	2nd (2.83)	1st (2.00)	4th (4.13)	5th (4.35)
Non Port fans	5th (4.31)	3rd (3.06)	2nd (2.49)	1st (1.96)	4th (4.34)	6th (5.01)
6-10 games attended	5th (4.15)	3rd (3.23)	2nd (2.69)	1st (1.96)	4th (3.73)	6th (5.23)
11-15 games attended	4th (4.12)	2nd (2.58)	3rd (2.88)	1st (2.33)	5th (4.21)	6th (4.88)
EVERYBODY	4th (4.00)	3rd (3.08)	2nd (2.67)	1st (2.11)	5th (4.11)	6th (5.02)
West fans	5th (3.89)	3rd (3.49)	1st (2.72)	2nd (2.83)	4th (3.51)	6th (4.56)
South fans	4th (3.81)	3rd (2.19)	2nd (2.75)	1st (1.88)	5th (4.06)	6th (5.31)
Sturt fans	4th (3.79)	3rd (2.93)	2nd (2.79)	1st (2.05)	5th (3.39)	6th (5.51)
1-5 games attended	2nd (2.89)	3rd (3.36)	4th (3.39)	1st (2.64)	4th (3.73)	6th (5.07)
No games attended	2nd (2.71)	3rd (3.29)	4th (3.41)	1st (2.41)	5th (3.76)	6th (5.41)
Port fans	1st (2.21)	3rd (3.21)	4th (3.73)	2nd (2.97)	5th (3.75)	6th (5.06)

Almost all categories have AFL Reserves as their #1 preference with the exception of Port fans who like the idea of a Crows league side in the SANFL league.

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FEATURE STORY



CROWS QUESTION THREE

If the Crows have a team in the SANFL "LEAGUE" competition how would this affect you?

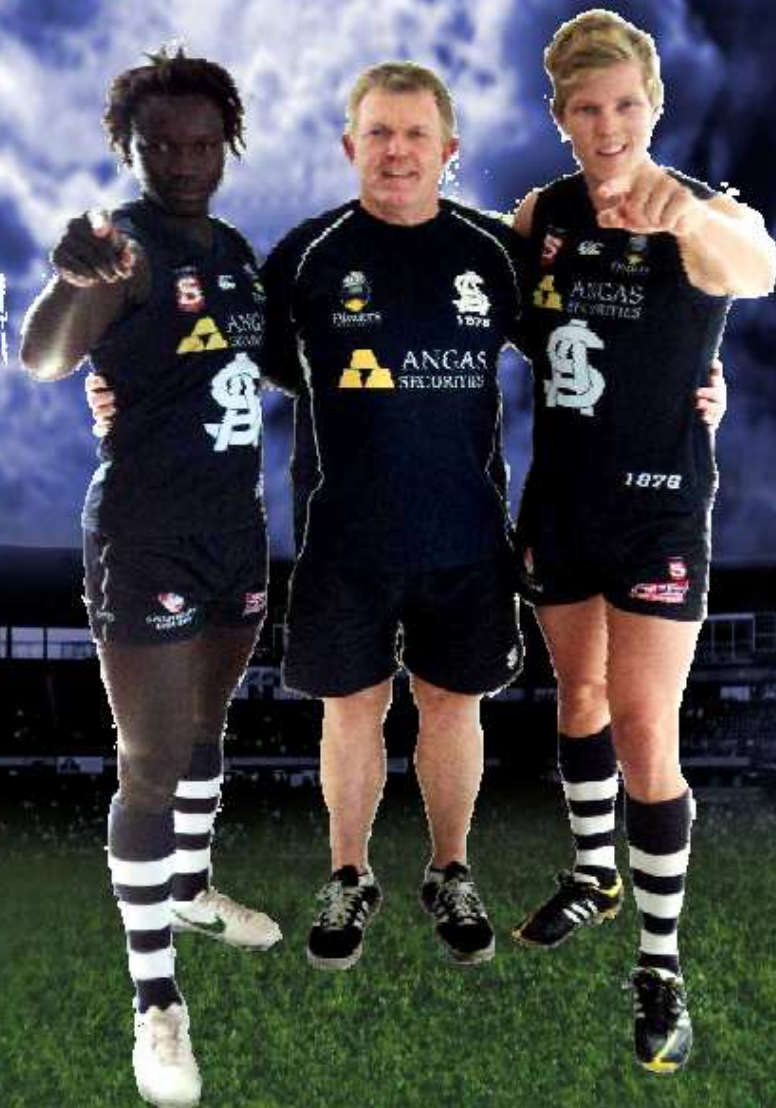
Options

- A) More likely to support my SANFL club (buy membership, attend games)
- B) No change to my level of SANFL club support
- C) Less likely to support my SANFL club (buy membership, attend games)

Category	A) More Support	B) Same Support	C) Less Support	Net Effect
Glenelg fans	8%	8%	83%	75% less support
Norwood fans	3%	40%	56%	53% less support
Central fans	3%	45%	52%	49% less support
11-15 games attended	6%	42%	52%	46% less support
Eagles fans	7%	43%	50%	43% less support
16-20 games attended	9%	47%	43%	36% less support
Non Port Fans	10%	50%	40%	30% less support
EVERYBODY	11.5%	52.1%	36.3%	24.8% less support
West fans	15%	50%	35%	20% less support
North fans	8%	64%	28%	20% less support
6-10 games attended	19%	48%	33%	14% less support
Sturt fans	20%	51%	29%	9% less support
1-5 games attended	15%	65%	20%	5% less support
South fans	12%	75%	13%	1% less support
No games attended	12%	76%	12%	no change
Port fans	20%	64%	15%	5% more support

Some worrying results here with a large drop off in support recorded from non Port supporters and those who attend 11 or more games in a year. Again South fans are split and those who only attend a handful of games or less are less worried about any changes,

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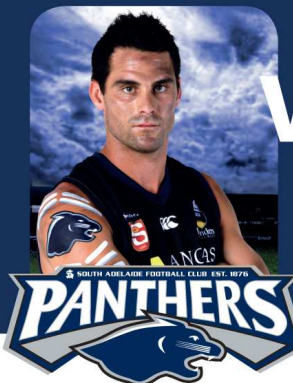


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FEATURE STORY



CROWS QUESTION FOUR

If the Crows have a team in the SANFL "RESERVES" competition how would this affect you?

Options

A) More likely to support my SANFL club (buy membership, attend games)

B) No change to my level of SANFL club support

C) Less likely to support my SANFL club (buy membership, attend games)

Category	A) More Support	B) Same Support	C) Less Support	Net Effect
11-15 games attended	3%	70%	27%	24% less support
Port fans	0%	76%	23%	23% less support
Glenelg fans	8%	67%	25%	17% less support
Norwood fans	16%	72%	12%	4% more support
Central fans	10%	66%	24%	14% less support
6-10 games attended	4%	81%	15%	11% less support
Eagles fans	7%	79%	14%	7% less support
EVERYBODY	10.3%	74.8%	15.0%	4.7% less support
South fans	12%	75%	13%	1% less support
1-5 games attended	11%	78%	11%	no change
16-20 games attended	15%	70%	15%	no change
No games attended	6%	88%	6%	no change
Non Port fans	12%	75%	13%	1% more support
Sturt fans	11%	80%	9%	2% more support
North fans	8%	88%	4%	4% more support
Norwood fans	16%	72%	12%	4% more support
West fans	25%	55%	20%	5% more support

The SANFL reserves option appears to have a much smaller impact on future support especially for non Port fans.

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- 2 Gala Auction Dinner Ticket

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FROM OUR READERS



Next week I will look at results in terms of a potential Power reserves side.

Following are some of the comments left by our readers ;

.....

Sick of Magpies/Port POWER deciding which club their AFL listed players play, usually Port, without any compensation.....unbelievable. (JEFF, FLAGSTAFF HILL)

I hate the AFL with a passion, their administration has already done more than enough to near on destroy the game I was brought up with and that I love.

The sport is merely a shadow of its former self, and any further afl involvement in our SANFL only stands to alienate supporters even further. I used to be able to watch a quarter or 2 here and there of AFL when it was on TV, but now its like watching a foreign sport for the very first time, it is just absolute crap to watch.

Should the AFL continue to have more and more influence on my SANFL, I fear the AFL management will end up destroying the entire sport of Australian rules football for me and many others. (SAM, IRELAND)

With no AFL listed players in SANFL teams, I would expect a more even playing field. SANFL players drafted should have a minimum payment of \$50k to the club from which they were drafted. (STUEY, GLENGOW-RIE)

If the system changed and Port and Crows reserves team were in the SANFL league competition I would not attend games where those teams played my team (Norwood) as I would regard these as non-fixtures/trial games. (DAVID, ADELAIDE)

I believe both AFL teams should be tied to an existing SANFL team, Creating a n extra SANFL will dilute the standard and be difficult to maintain financially for the 'poorer' clubs. (STEPHEN, DAW PARK)

No AFL sides in the SANFL. (JAMIE, WOODVILLE NORTH)

AFL clubs show little respect (Power particularly) to SANFL clubs with how they handle their players. Newton and Young are further recent examples of this. Ridiculous that they can then expect to join SANFL league competition.

The SANFL is an icon of this state and does not need AFL club involvement to weaken the structure of the competition. AFL RESERVES COMPETITION FOR AFL RESERVES TEAMS! (STEVE , RICHMOND)



Graham Johncock under pursuit
Images—Peter Argent 0411 178 444



ROUND 6

7.00PM FRIDAY

WEST

V GLENELG

1.30PM SUNDAY

EAGLES

V SOUTH

PREMIER

SANFL

COVERAGE

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FROM OUR READERS



The best option is for the Crows & Power to have a reserves side playing in a AFL Reserves competition. (GEORGE, MAWSON LAKES)

The Magpies are currently getting a huge advantage with the Power slowly but surely getting all of their AFL players to transfer to the Magpies - a disgrace that this is allowed to happen.

The Power have in the past not allowed their AFL players to play in the SANFL Finals with lame excuses - it will be interesting to see what happens this year if the Magpies make the finals eg Port are playing North and they don't allow Daniel Stewart, Blee or Moore to play (if they are still with us and not the Magpies!!) but, oh what a surprise, all of their Magpies players are all fit and available to play. What a joke!! (MICK, BROADVIEW)

I honestly think the best solution is to have AFL Reserves. A's and B's exist in every other level of footy around from grassroots to SANFL and VFL etc.

In my opinion the AFL has the money to make this happen and should. It would only deliver positives for all involved. The players and clubs would get stronger by having consistency and playing on better venues in front of bigger crowds, especially in the 3rd and 4th quarters as crowds arrive for the main game.

There is potential for better coverage and insight to a team and players. This would also condi-

the players to travel, making it one less issue to worry about. My solution removes all of the current issues being experienced. (MICHAEL, COLLINS-WOOD)

There have been 3 AFL premierships won by the Adelaide based clubs with AFL listed players playing in the SANFL spread amongst the clubs in the last 22 years.

So in the next 22 years if the Adelaide based clubs don't improve on the tally of 3 AFL premierships then having their own reserves teams must be seen as a failure. Surely results is the measure of success ! (REG, UNLEY)

A Crows side in any club competition outside of the AFL is unlikely to be beneficial. For the

SANFL to add them to their league they should ask for, and be given, an overwhelming positive response from all clubs and their supporters - something they will never get.

It is such a divisive issue that it could be too much for the fans to deal with and signal the end of the top local league in this state. In some ways it will be as per the situation be as per the situation when Australia A played in the one-day cricket series - who do you now bar-rack for?

I believe that the AFL simply needs to finance a reserves competition, as I don't see a good fit for the two SA teams in any other existing league, regardless of state or the level of the comp. (MICHAEL, NAIRNE)



Rory Laird

Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT

MIGHT JUST MAKE

YOU CHOKE

ON YOUR MORNING

PIE FLOATER

VICTORIA HAS OVER 500 SQUARE MILES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND.

Yep, your calculations are correct. That's over 1420 square kilometres by the metric system. See, the reason Victoria has all this land is because the state border line was marked incorrectly way back in 1850.

Don't flip through to the sports section just yet though, because it gets worse. As you can imagine, South Australia tried to get their land back.

They sued Victoria (before suing was trendy) and even threatened invasion. Then in 1914, after more court hearings than Julian Assange, Victoria won the case and got to keep the disputed territory. And the whole town of Serviceton along with it.

Imagine that, one day you're South Australian, the next, you're Victorian. It's just not right. It's outright un-South Australian. Just think of all the people who've missed out on everything that makes our state great.

Denied the majestic shimmer of the Mall's Balls. Unable to enjoy the culinary genius of a double cut roll stuffed with two types of meat. Deprived of the relaxed South Australian attitude (let's face it, the only time we get stressed is during Grand Final week). And worst of all, they've never known the simple pleasure of South Australia's number one beer, West End Draught.

UNTIL NOW. BECAUSE NOW, WEST END DRAUGHT ARE RECLAIMING THE LAND.

We're bringing South Australia back to this 500 square mile strip of Victoria. No, we don't have permission. Yes, we might get yelled at. But as your mum never said, two wrongs can make a right.

SO COME ON SOUTH AUSTRALIA, HELP US GET THE LAND BACK FOR ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS TO ENJOY.

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FROM OUR READERS



The current system works best, if they change it to what they want they will be sorry as Adelaide is not big enough and i am not sure ADELAIDE OVAL is going to work as well (ROBERT, UPPER STURT)

I don't go to SANFL games to watch AFL listed players - in fact their inclusion detracts from the competition. I would lose faith and interest in the SANFL if Crows or Port field a reserve team in the SANFL league comp. (NICK, BRIGHTON)

We have been coming from the Riverland almost every week for the past 30 years to watch the SANFL and we love it. If the Crows and Power put their reserves sides in our league comp we will no longer travel down to watch a one-sided comp.

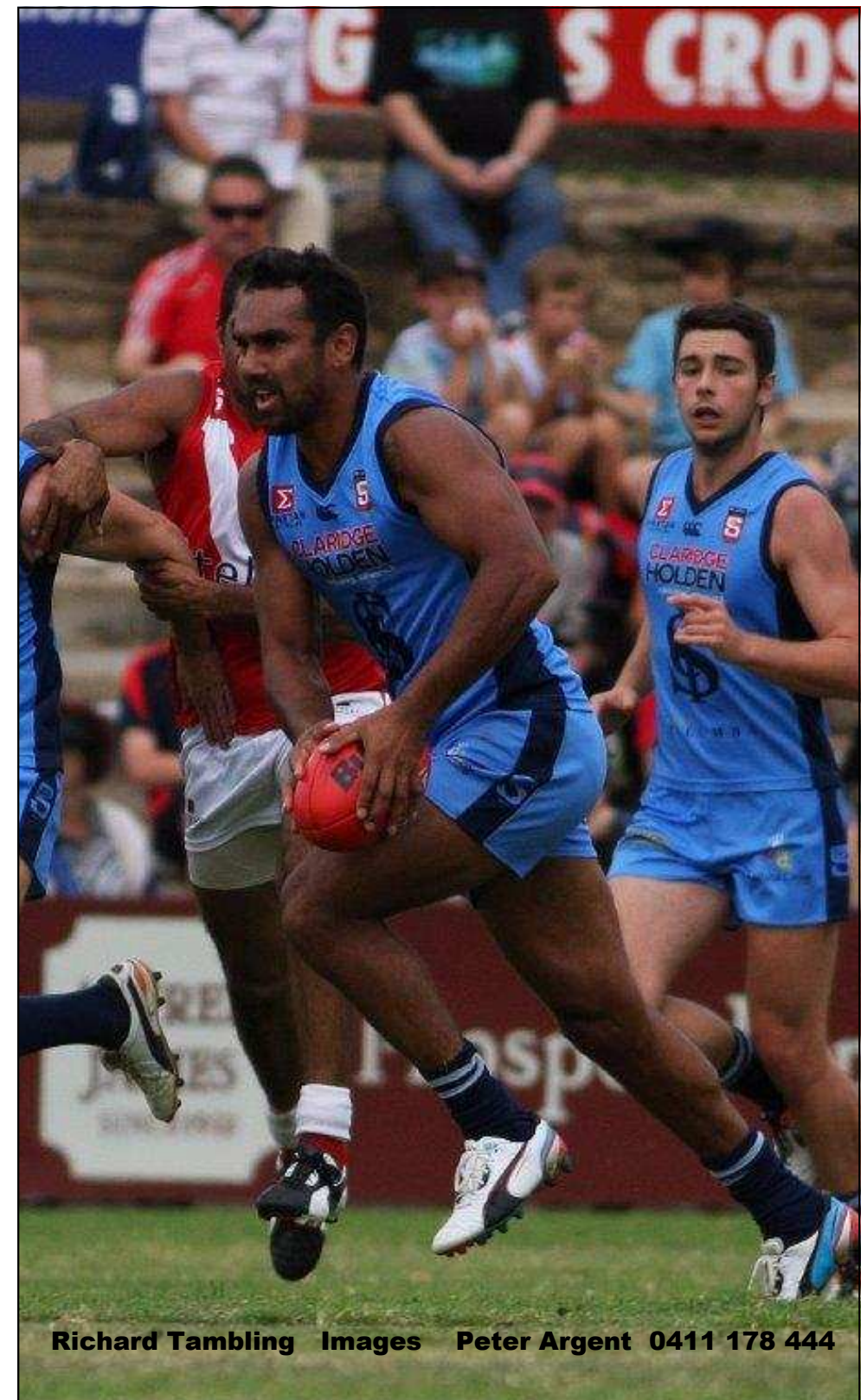
How the hell are they going to work out all the details required to make it an even comp (eg salary cap) The SANFL is its own comp and the AFL should stick to its comp.

Just because its easier for the Crows / Power to play in SA that should NOT allow them to stuff up the SANFL. It will be the end of our enjoyment in local footy. Let us keep our tradition and let them find another answer to their problems. (LOUISE, BARMERA)

I can see why the Crows and Port need a reserves however we can't kill the SANFL. (MARK, MODBURY)

I am absolutely against Crows and Port fielding teams in the SANFL league competition. (MAZ, NURIOOTPA)

We should not compromise our SANFL competition in league or reserves. (DARYL, ROSSLYN PARK)



Richard Tambling Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444



WHAT WE LEARNT

WHAT WE LEARNT



WHAT WE LEARNT FROM ROUND 5

Peter Argent

GROW UP BOYS

The altercation between Andy Collins and Nathan Bassett is not a good look for local football. Two experienced football people with more than 400 AFL games between them should have known better than have a physical confrontation in front of upwards of 6000 patrons at the ANZAC day game.

Yes, we want fierce rivalries and it is common knowledge that this pair don't like each other. Anyone who was at the 2012 Grand Final media launch could see their distain.

Both deserve to be fined and reprimanded for this incident. Keep your hands to yourselves.

JUST FIVE WEEKS IN – COULD IT BE?

Is the 2013 season over for four clubs?

South Adelaide have endured four losses in their opening four matches, including three at home.

Port Adelaide have one win from their quartet of matches, and they aren't playing with energy for new Magpies coach Ken McGregor.

Sturt haven't had a bye yet and have a single win from five games.

The team that dominated for a decade, Central District are winless at the moment and had a bye in Round Five.

While all these sides have played 25 per cent or less of the season, and statistically they OBVIOUSLY can still make it.

On early form they won't and they will have their season come to a halt after Round 23.

MAT SUCKLING, A DESERVING ANZAC MEDALLIST

With 41 possessions including 25 kicks, 16 handballs, nine marks, a couple of tackles and 12 clearances says it all.

A position is the SANFL state team for the game against the NEAFL is a given.

Is he the most in-form midfielder in the competition currently?

Footnote: Without Ryan Ferguson and Chris Schmidt last Thursday I would have changed my selection from West to Nor-

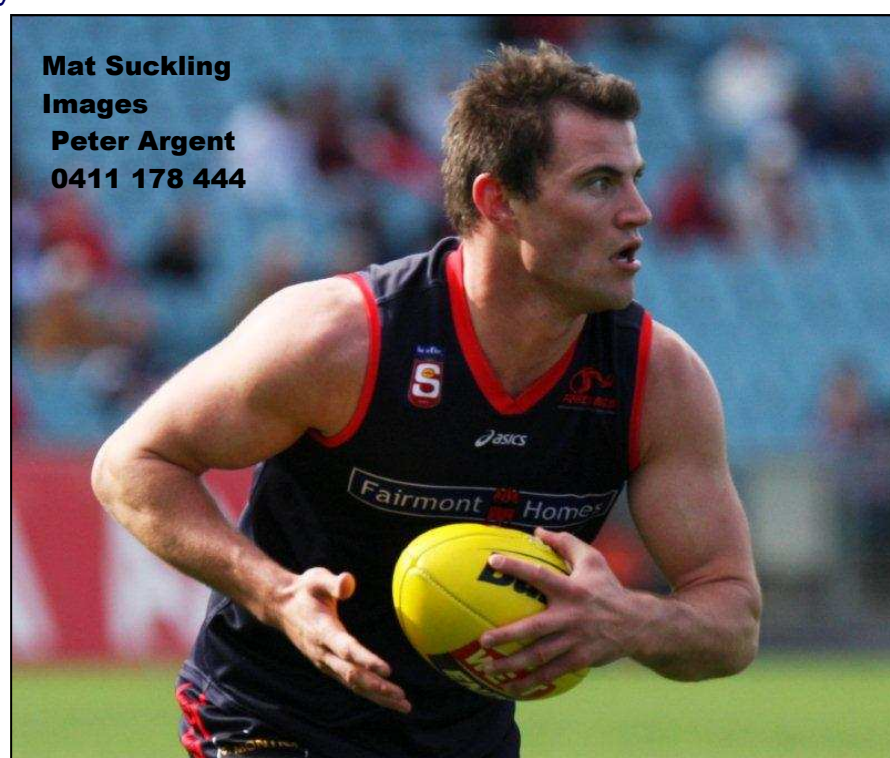
THE QUALITY OF THE UNDER 18'S GAME WAS DISGRACEFUL

Stopping in to watch a quarter of the match between West Adelaide and the Redlegs, at under 18's level, last Sunday at City Mazda Stadium was horrid at best.

Both clubs flooding and putting numbers behind the ball. Team switching, kicking short and players not learning much about the game.

It was noteworthy that a member of the state under 18's coaching squad and a high profile AFL recruiting manager who were watching were equally disturbed with the style of football being played.

Playing this style of football doesn't help anyone.



Mat Suckling
Images
Peter Argent
0411 178 444

Phil Herden

1) What were they thinking?

The half time "alleged" altercation between coaches, Bassett and Collins, on ANZAC Day has certainly generated extra media coverage of the SANFL competition, but what example does it set?

Coincidentally the SANFL tribunal hearing was held on the same day as a man was jailed for seven months in a Port Pirie Court, for the vicious king hit assault of a country umpire during last year's Spencer Gulf Football League Grand Final.

This was an incident which left the victim, innocently doing his job to the best of his ability, with a fractured eye socket, fractured nose and in need of regular surgery. He will never umpire again.

Footy is by nature a physical contact sport, but there is no place for any violence occurring outside of the rules of the game.

As public figures and role models for the SANFL competition, not to mention the key leader of their respective clubs, League coaches must set the standard for others to follow.

As much as we all condemn the actions that occurred in the Spencer Gulf, surely we must do the same with what happened at Norwood as well.

Eagles Jake Von Bertouch
showing some new head gear
Images Peter Argent
0411 178 444

2) A common cause can unite.

I did a double take at Woodville on Saturday, when members of the Port Magpie's Cheer Squad displayed a banner for the crowd and ABC cameras reading, "NO AFL IN THE SANFL", behind the Southern Goals during certain set shots.

Anyone who observes the interaction of various fan bases on local football internet forums would know that there is plenty of passion and disagreement between the tribes, particularly on general Port Adelaide Football Club matters.

However on the issue of AFL reserves in the SANFL, the agreement and team work between this range of diverse ...

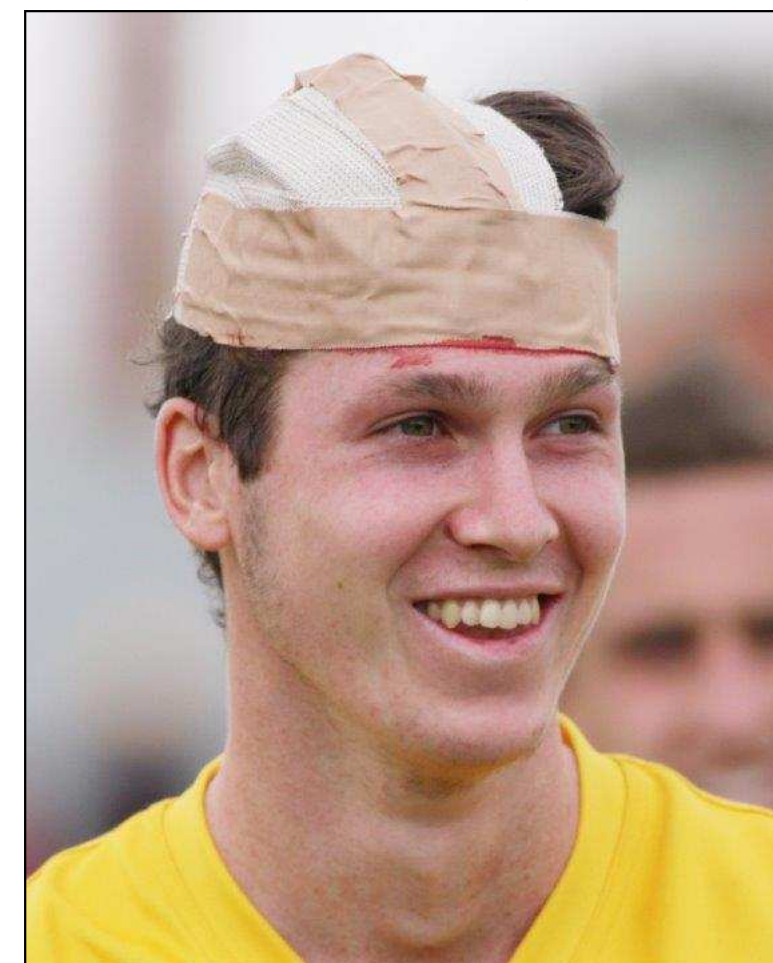
supporter groups is something not seen since the "Kick A Vic" days of State of Origin games in the 1980's

3) Could this be the final five?

Already there is a two win and large percentage gap between 5th placed Glenelg and 6th placed Sturt.

Norwood, West, North and Eagles are all off to strong starts, which leaves Glenelg, who has played Norwood and all the bottom four sides for a 3-2 record, probably the most vulnerable to slide.

Of the four teams battling to get into the top five, Central would be the most likely for mine, but with a 0-4 start they have the most ground to make up.





WHAT WE LEARNT

Phil Aspinall

1. NOARLUNGA NO FORTRESS

With yet another loss on home soil, the South Adelaide Football Club is again failing to really capitalise on what should be a huge home ground advantage to them. Being acclimatised to the sometimes difficult conditions Noarlunga can sometimes offer still has not resulted in the Panthers securing vital points on home soil. Surely question marks over the side's mental strength and application have to be asked?

Season 2012 saw the side only taste victory in 2 of their 10 outings at Hickinbotham Oval, with their overall record at this venue not that flash, even prior to Ron Fuller taking over. Since 2010, the blue and whites ratio at home is 7 wins, 23 losses and 2 draws. Comparatively, South's total win / loss record during Fuller's reign of 19 wins, 45 losses and 2 draws. For some reason, the Panthers don't play well at home.

2. COACHES WIRED FOR SOUND

It must be said that, from a media perspective, all of the SANFL coaches are always more than accessible and are happy to help promote the competition any chance they can get. This was more than evident on ANZAC Day when West Adelaide coach Andy Collins and Norwood coach Nathan Bassett both accepted an impromptu radio interview request while

coming from the ground after addressing players at change of quarters.

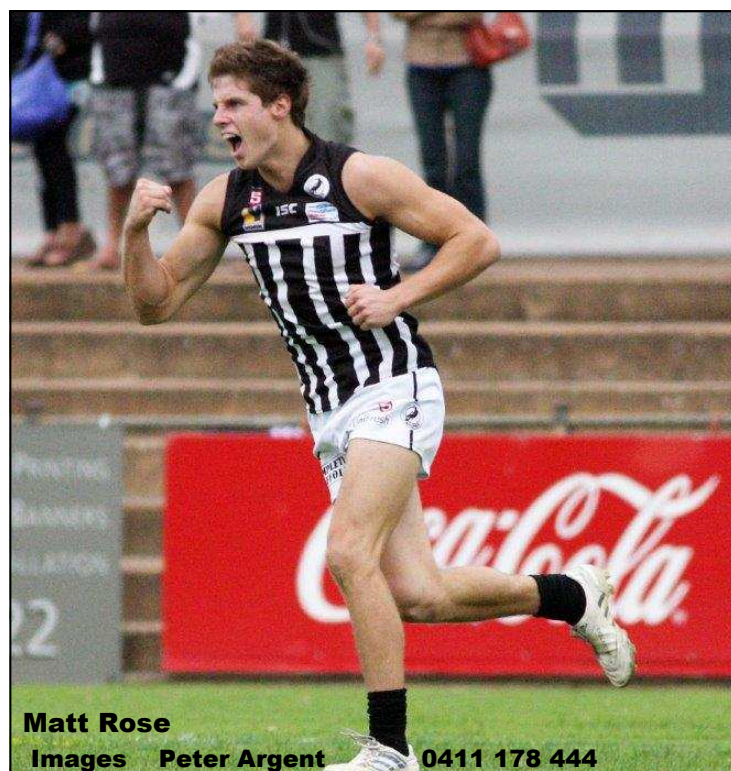
Then, Friday night saw South's Ron Fuller and North coach Josh Francou agree to the live on-air chat, providing great insights, followed by Saturday night at The Bay with Glenelg coach Kris Massie and Double Blues coach Seamus Maloney also happy to oblige. These coaches comply with the requests of TV broadcaster ABC, naturally, but it made for great listening to get their thoughts and perspectives during their respective chats.

3. LEST WE FORGET

For the first time in history, reigning Grand Finalists Norwood and West Adelaide battled it out in a Grand Final rematch, at Coopers Stadium on ANZAC Day. In front of a healthy crowd

of just over 6,000 fans, it was certainly a sobering moment when the playing of the last post occurred. When everyone stands for that minute's silence, you can't help but be taken up in the moment and reflect back on how tough things would have been during the war and how lucky we are today.

It must be said that the Norwood Football Club did a great job in hosting the day with facilities well accommodated for. Unfortunately it was a scrappy, low scoring and affair with quite a big controversial talking point coming out of the game. West coach Andy Collins, Norwood Coach Nathan Bassett and Redlegs' player Jace Bode all involved in a physical altercation. It was a little sad that this marred a day when we should be remembering and respecting the fallen.



Matt Rose
Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444



WHAT WE LEARNT

Don Cooper

1- Thailand may be thousands of kilometres away from Australia, but it doesn't mean the SANFL competition isn't followed on the other side of the world.

While watching the ANZAC Day AFL clash between Essendon and Collingwood at the Aussie Bar in Patong, I was asked by a friendly patron from Adelaide as to which team I followed.

To my reply of Carlton (thinking he was talking about the telecast competition), the gentlemen in question clarified by asking what SANFL team??

Great to see the expats are still keeping a watchful eye on our competition!

2 - And while on the subject of following the football overseas, I also learnt how valuable modern technology is.

Allowing me to keep an eye on SANFL proceedings via the internet, while having the back up of constant "live and exclusive" text messages from my daughter, Courtney, at the Panthers v Roosters match!

3 - There was a stark reminder this week that the third quarter really is the "premiership quarter"!

Two sides who demonstrated that in emphatic fashion were the Redlegs and the Roosters, who sealed victory with their quality of football following the main break.

In the Grand Final replay, Nathan Bassett's men tore apart the Bloods with a 5-4(34) to 1-1 (7) effort, turning a 10 point half-time deficit into a 17 point lead by the final break.

While down at Hickinbotham Oval on Friday night North Adelaide crushed the Panthers with a demoralizing 8.1(49) to 4.2(26) third term, stretching what was just a slender lead into a match sealing victory.

4 - The other factor I picked up on while perusing the stats of the weekend in Phuket, was how dominant the Redlegs were in the air and around the stoppages against West Adelaide.

While we have become used to the Norwood engine room dominating the clearances, they have not been renowned for dominating the ruck duels, but with the laboring efforts of a Boulderstone crane proved they are now constructing a high-rise addition to their portfolio.

By winning the hit outs 63-42 and transferring this into 57 clearances, the 'Legs went inside 50, 52 times to set up an onslaught which would push the best defense to breaking point - as it did to the Bloods!



WHAT WE LEARNT

John Nankivell

1) Norwood are still the benchmark.

In Round Four Norwood showed they were not unbeatable when they lost to the Eagles by 36 points. On ANZAC day they reminded us that, while not unbeatable they are still the benchmark of the SANFL. Norwood came from 10 points down at half time to overrun the Bloods and score a 26 point win.

They outscored the Bloods seven goals to three in the second half, and in doing so took back top spot on the table. West Adelaide are certainly closer to Norwood than they were in 2012, but the 'Legs are still the premiership favourite.

2) Great to see Mat Suckling in the State Squad.

After picking up 41 disposals and winning the ANZAC Medal in last Thursday's Grand Final re-match, it was great to see Norwood onballer Mat Suckling rewarded with a place in the SANFL state squad for the game against the NEAFL in May.

Along with AFL listed Tiger, Jar-ryd Lyons, and North Adelaide midfield dynamo, Nathan Gordon, Suckling is one of the most inform players in the competition and will be a huge asset for the state side in their quest for victory

3) South are going to struggle without Peter Rolfe.

Last year the Panthers had a forward line that was the envy of the League. How things have changed.

The Panthers lost the high leaping Andrew Ainger to the Eagles in the off season; and now with Rolfe suffering a season ending knee injury against Sturt in Round Four, the much vaunted forward line is looking just a shade of it's former self.

Michael Wundke tried hard against the Roosters on Friday night at Noarlunga, and despite finishing with four goals.was well held by the North defence. Former Collingwood player, Brett Eddy, may be the man to step up and give Wundke some much needed support on the goal kicking front.

If something doesn't happen soon South's season may be over.



Eagles Mascot

Images **Peter Argent** 0411 178 444

MILESTONES



Luke Slattery (Port)

100 Games This Week

(If selected)

Hailing from the Mid North of the state, Luke Slattery was a late comer to SANFL ranks.

He originated from Crystal Brook, and while studying to be a teacher supplemented his studies by playing with Hamley Bridge in the Adelaide Plains competition.

One year at the Hamley Bombers he played out of full forward and collected the competition's goal kicking trophy. He also collected the 2004 Mail Medal in the APFL in a tie with Todd Thorne of Mallala, in the year they won the flag.

These days Slattery is a dashing defender who has skill, poise and delivers the ball well. The Magpies may have struggled in the current era, but Slattery has been a consistent performer.

His debut at league level was back in Round Three, 2005, against Glenelg at home at Alberton Oval.

Slattery has been vice captain of the side for the past two years, and was the club's most consistent player in 2012.

Now 31, the 186 cm, 82 kg utility has become a 100 game player at the Magpies.

- Peter Argent

Luke Slattery

Images—**Peter Argent**
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