



**COMING UP**

# FOOT-e TIMES SA

## ROUND 8 ISSUE

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ROUND 8 PREVIEWS**



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# FOOT-e TIMES SA

*Comprehensive Coverage of South Australian Football*

**2013 Round Seven Edition : Thursday May 16**

## BIG WIN, WHO CARED?

**SA KNOCKS OUT NEAFL IN FRONT OF 1,498**



Brayden O'Hara sends the SANFL forward. Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444





## 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.

## THE FOOT-e TIMES SA TEAM

**Phil Herden**

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## PLEASE NOTE

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All images courtesy of Peter Argent & available for sale.

## 2013 ROUND SEVEN EDITION

Thursday May 16th 2013

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## FIXING STATE FOOTBALL

I am a dinosaur, or at least I feel like one after last Saturday's State Game between the SANFL and NEAFL North.

You see I still care for state footy and look forward to the big red jumper taking the stage each year regardless of venue and opponent.

Alas after just 1,498 turned up to City Mazda Stadium last Saturday I am a member of an ever dwindling minority.

Not only was it the smallest crowd of the SANFL season and the smallest crowd ever at a state game in SA it was the flatness of the atmosphere that struck home hard.

There are a few other thoughts on the state game in this issue but for this piece I wanted to suggest some changes going forward.

Firstly state football, supported or not, has a future with the schedule of opponents set for the next 4 seasons until 2017.

Indeed the next two games against the VFL and WAFL are on the road.

In 2016 we are set to host NEAFL East (NSW/ACT) and unless things radically change it looms as an even bigger mismatch than the Northern Conference.

Surely the lesson from Saturday is that it is better for this game to be played in Sydney or

Canberra than in SA.

The best state league in the country coming to town would be a good draw card for the NEAFL to promote within it's community where as we have already sampled that local interest in such a matchup is almost non existent here in SA.

That takes us to 2017 and the visit of the VFL.

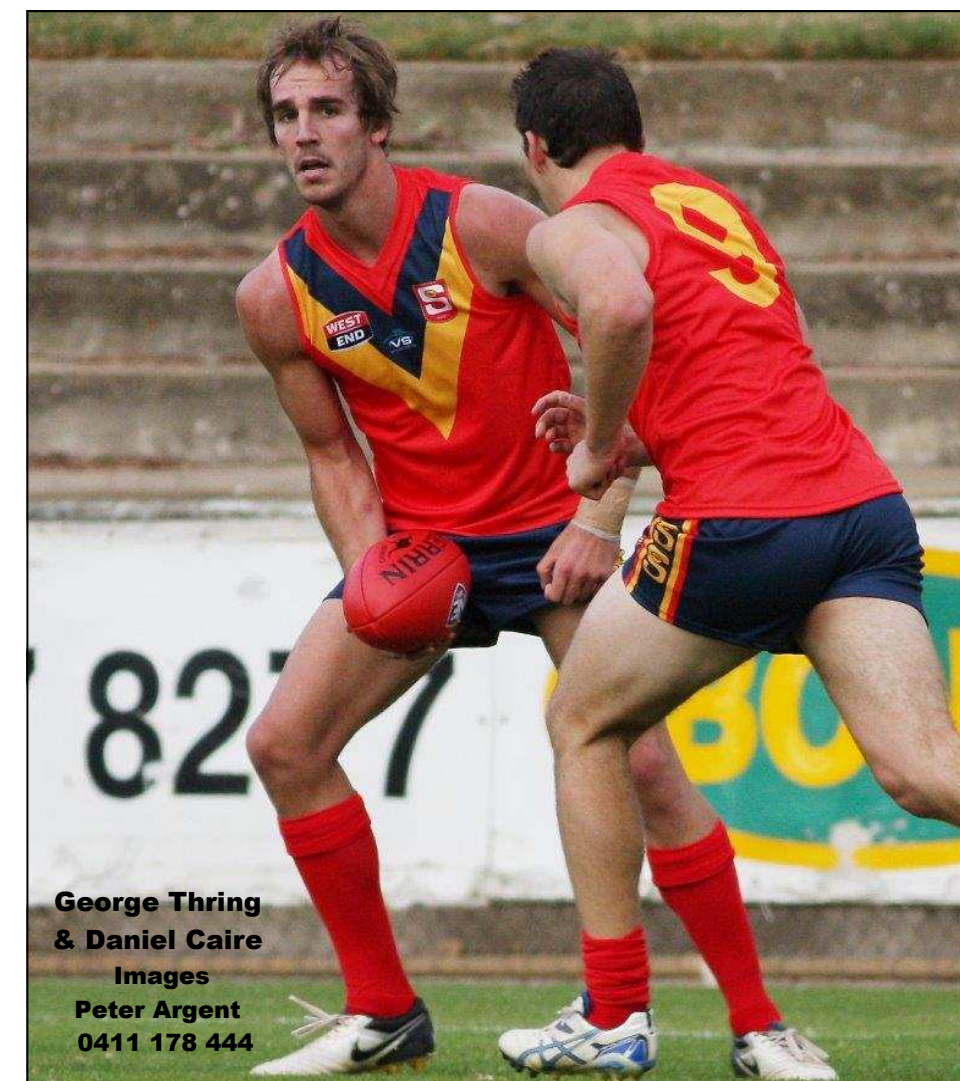
This will be the SANFL's 140th anniversary, our arch-rivals bringing state footy back to SA for the first time in four seasons.

Surely in that time a worthy promotional plan can be implemented to ensure a decent crowd.

As an example why not have a \$1-\$2 levy on season and home match tickets for the seasons leading into the game so these loyal supporters of the SANFL get FREE entry on the day.

If, after all this, we still can't get a crowd then like the dinosaurs, state footy would be is dead.

**Phil Herden**  
**FOOT-e TIMES SA**



**George Thring  
& Daniel Caire**  
Images  
**Peter Argent**  
0411 178 444



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## FEATURE STORY



### QUARTER TIME -THE SEASON SO FAR

*By The FOOT-e TIMES SA TEAM*

With 6 rounds gone, and the state fixture giving us just one game to look at, it's time for the FOOT-e TIMES SA team, to reflect on the SANFL season so far.

**1) What has been your highlight of the SANFL season so far?**

**Peter Argent**

The strong form that North Adelaide has shown. The Roosters have continued the form they displayed during the latter part of the 2012 season.

The young exciting talent that have come into the SANFL this season, from a variety of different areas.

Sam Baulderstone, Ziggy Vitkunas and Dylan Hewett are three that come to mind from outside the usual paths.

**Don Cooper**

The highlight of the season so far has definitely been the 0-4 start by the Bulldogs!! (Now that was completely tongue in cheek, but let's be honest, those of us who are not loyal to the northern empire and have had to endure the 'Dogs dominance for over a decade....how can we not perceive that as a highlight!??)

Honestly though, the highlight for me – outside of seeing the

competition as a whole, so open and competitive - has been watching the Bloods release the shackles and play a brand of football which is now not only enthralling....but entertaining as well!

**Phil Herden**

West Adelaide showing they do

have an attacking side. There is still some Jeckyl & Hyde about the Bloods, but not since Central in 2006 / 2007 has the runner up recovered quickly to return to the Grand Final the next year, let alone win the Premiership.

No doubt the Bloods are right in the mix.



**The rise of West & North has been a highlight for most. Images  
Peter Argent 0411 178 444**

**FOOT-e TIMES SA**



# ROUND 7: WEST VS PORT

## FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2013

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## FEATURE STORY

### John Nankivell

Probably the fact that what looked like being a fairly one sided season has really opened up. Pre-season everybody was saying Norwood and then daylight, when it came to discussing the Premiership.

While Norwood are still probably the favourite, West Adelaide have shown that they have really improved and are a legitimate Premiership chance. While both North Adelaide and the Eagles have played well in the first six rounds and are right around the mark.

really improved and are a legitimate Premiership chance. While both North Adelaide and the Eagles have played well in the first six rounds and are right around the mark.

### Phil Aspinall

The highlight, for mine, so far in season 2013 has been the style of play from a more attacking West Adelaide outfit.

Branded in the past few seasons as a defensive oriented side, the Bloods seem to now have the right mix of playing personnel, with the required skill level to

execute an Andy Collins game style now more focused on kicking a winning score.

The other thing that has really stood out for me has been the unbridled and mainly unanimous passion and support from the majority of SANFL fans in regards to 'NO AFL IN THE SANFL'.

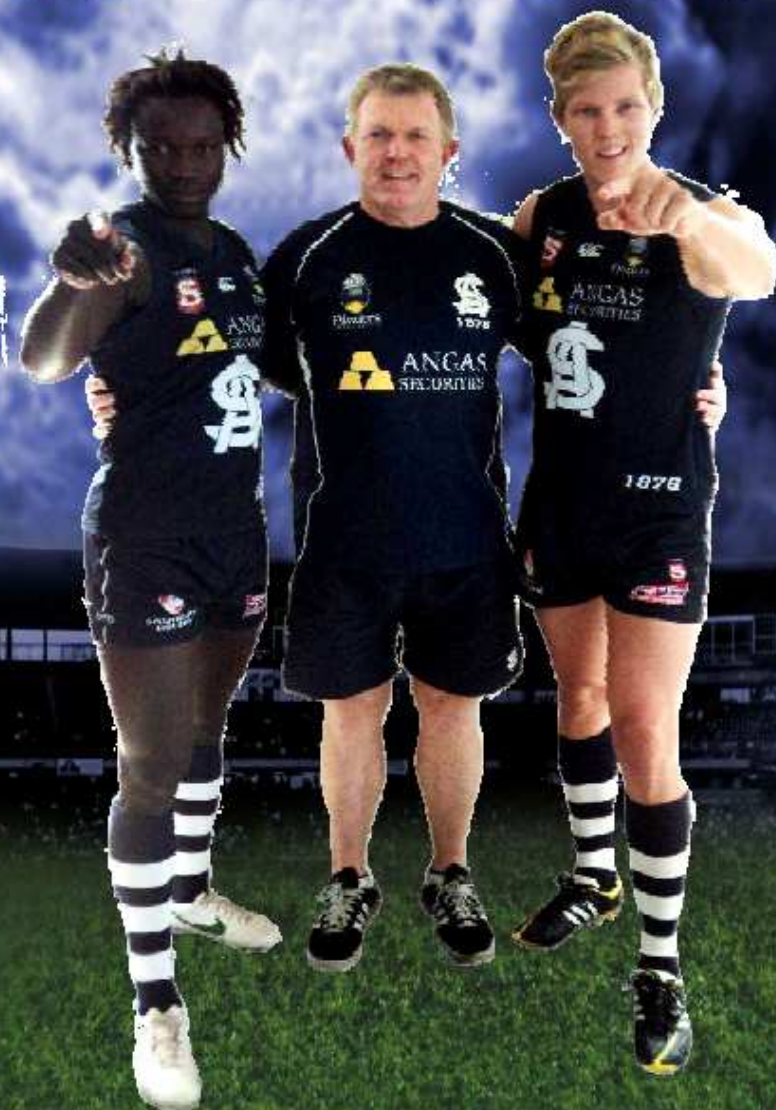
The now famous banner - nicknamed Eric, for obvious reasons - has been a great tool for initiating a real united front, from all fans, fighting for the same cause, which has been great.



Matt Goldsworthy's ground level goal v Norwood was a highlight for some  
Images Peter Argent 0411 178 444



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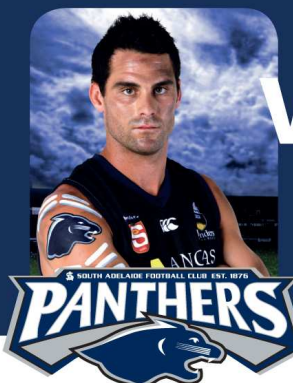


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## FEATURE STORY



### 2) What has been the biggest surprise so far?

#### Peter Argent

The lack of big hauls kicked by forwards in the SANFL.

When was the last time someone kicked 10 goals in a game of league footy?

The leading goal kickers have got less than 20 goals to this point of the season.

We could have a leading goal kicker at the end of the minor round with less than 55 goals.

#### Don Cooper

From my perspective, the undoubted surprise of season 2013 has been the current form of the Roosters.

While it may not be a surprise to those within the inner sanctum of Prospect Oval, I for one, will admit to doubting whether the highly successful bubble created in 2012 would last this year.

Following the departure of several stars from the 2012 line-up, Josh Francou has been able to more than cover their "stage left" exits with a number of lesser named "understudies," and in doing so is extending the depth of the club and may well take them to even greater heights!

#### Phil Herden

The current gulf between the top four and the rest. Whilst the

SANFL is a much more competitive League than the AFL currently, there is still a large gap developing.

Glenelg may be 5th with a 3-3 record, but their efforts against Norwood and West suggest they would make up the numbers should they get to AAMI Stadium in September.

#### John Nankivell

Central District's poor start to the year. I think most of us saw the 'Dogs slipping a bit, but who would have predicted a 0-4 start to the season?

That being said, after their first win of the year against the Magpies in round six it looks like the doggies are back in Finals contention. And if they get there they could cause some sides a few headaches

#### Phil Aspinall

A pretty easy question to answer here. The Central District Football Club dropping their first four games of the year, and equalling a club record from 1967, is something almost all SANFL fans wouldn't have expected. Despite a reasonably tough start to the year, to see the Bulldogs both bottom and winless after Round 5 was a real shock.

The other surprise, so far, in season 2013 has been the poor form of South Adelaide, especially after their undefeated trial game form. Already suffering two massive 100+ point losses and yet again failing to be competitive on home soil has Panther fans, as well as some media scribes, scratching their heads about pre-season expectations and predictions.



**Central have found the season so far tough going**

**Images**  
**Peter Argent**  
**0411 178 444**



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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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## FEATURE STORY



### 3) If the Magarey Medal was awarded now who would win it and why?

#### Peter Argent

Chris Schmidt . He should have got votes in four of the five games he's played.

He's won plenty of the ball and uses it very well, and has been under the umpires' notice. Last year showed that Schmidt can grab votes from the umpires.

There is a group just behind him, including Sam Gray, Brayden O'Hara and Mat Suckling

#### Don Cooper

If Magarey Medal voting was to stop now, I believe the recipient of the time honoured title would (or should anyway) go to the Redlegs' Mat Suckling.

The explosive mid-fielder would have certainly caught the eye of the men in white (or mint green depending on the day) with his ability to win the contested footy and the manner in which he delivers the Burley, particularly by foot.

As winner of the Bob Quinn Medal for best afield in the recent ANZAC Day match, the 24 year old may well have to extend his trophy cabinet by season's end if he continues in this vein.

**Mat Suckling & Chris Schmidt  
could be fighting for a  
Magarey Medal this year  
Images Peter Argent  
0411 178 444**

#### Phil Herden

Chris Schmidt (West) might have nine votes already. My pre-season tip, James Boyd (Central) has been a little bit quiet in a side that has won just one game so far.

Matt Thomas (Norwood) is a major possession getter and may surprise, that is if Mat Suckling isn't racking up the Redlegs votes.

#### John Nankivell

Either Chris Schmidt or Mat Suckling who have both been in fantastic form. The only problem is they play in winning sides so may lose a few votes to teammates.

Nathan Gordon has been good for North, and I would be very interested to know how many votes AFL listed Tiger, Jarryd Lyons, has to this stage of the season as his form has been very strong.

#### Phil Aspinall

Even still after putting aside my personal 'man crush', I want to say Nathan Gordon, from North Adelaide.

The former Sydney Swan has been really eye catching for the Roosters, showing that he clearly still has the capabilities of playing at a higher level.

My only concern is that the star on-baller is a new player to the competition and may not be noticed early by the umpires.

The other obvious choice, for mine, would be Adelaide Crow's listed midfielder, Jarryd Lyons.

The Glenelg aligned player has been given his chance at AFL level in the last couple of weeks, but prior to that, his clearance work and skills for the Tigers were a real pleasure to watch.

He also featured amongst the Bay's best players in all of his SANFL games prior to promotion.





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## FEATURE STORY



### 4) Which pre-season tip are you already regretting?

#### Peter Argent

South would be the big improvers !!!!!!!!!!!

#### Don Cooper

The one prediction I wish I could retract now would definitely be that of South Adelaide being a genuine finals contender.

Who am I kidding? And perhaps who are they kidding?

I had complete trust in the depth of the Panther's squad to take the next steps toward being a quality side, capable of taking any side in the competition to their limit.

However, the second tier players have failed to deliver, and in doing so have let down their committed coach and loyal followers.

Perhaps they need a rocket rather than a fireball down there at Noarlunga?

#### Phil Herden

South finishing top three. What was I thinking?

All clubs have shown inconsistencies at times but, having watched live the Panthers incur triple figure floggings at the hands of both West and Eagles, it is clear that South's worst is wooden spoon material.

#### John Nankivell

While I am disappointed with tipping South Adelaide to finish fourth I am probably equally upset at tipping North to miss the Finals.

The Roosters have covered their losses from last season extremely well and are playing some great footy.

#### Phil Aspinall

I actually have a couple of regrets in this regard. In no particular order, picking Central to finish inside the top three is something I wish I hadn't done, especially after their start.

Another prediction I made that I wish I had not, was that of West Adelaide dropping off a little bit. Having the 2012 Grand Finalists finishing fifth is a pre-season prediction I'd like to take back.

Predicting South will play Finals, finishing fourth, is also something I'd like to take back now, and actually replace them with the Eagles, who I had finishing outside the top five, in sixth spot.

On what we have seen from the respective sides so far in season 2013, I am very comfortable in admitting that I feel these two predictions will be wrong.



**South are struggling  
so far this season  
Images Peter Argent  
0411 178 444**



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## FEATURE STORY



### 5) Will the final five change?

#### Peter Argent

The only position that may change is the fifth position – there is a huge gap already between the top four and the bottom five.

The fifth place is a raffle and “believe it or not”, Central District is as good as any of the others.

#### Don Cooper

I believe there will be just one change to the final five as it stands at this very point in time.

Presently, the top four sides are displaying all the credentials to hold their place in the run to the major round, while the Tigers are renowned for falling by the wayside late in the season. This will open the door for a resurgent Central District to sneak into contention as a finals “nuisance factor”.

The ‘Dogs are starting to piece together their puzzling start and will accumulate enough wins over the remaining rounds to secure an Elimination Final berth.

#### Phil Herden

Central could replace Glenelg but that would be all. Hard to see any of the top four dropping off the pace, and Sturt, Port and South require too much improvement.

#### John Nankivell

The top four will remain, although who exactly finishes where is along way from being decided. I feel that Glenelg will drop out of the five though and be replaced by Central District.

#### Phil Aspinall

I think there will be just the one

change. I feel that Glenelg, currently sitting in fifth spot, will be replaced by Central District.

The Bulldogs only got their first win of the year in the last round, but did jump from bottom to sixth with that win over the Magpies. The ‘Dogs to replace the Tigers.



**Bulldogs Brock Castree**

Images Peter Argent

0411 178 444





# ROUND 7

7.00PM FRIDAY

WEST  
V PORT

1.30PM SATURDAY

NORTH  
V EAGLES

PREMIER  
SANFL  
COVERAGE

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## FEATURE STORY



### 6) Who will finish top three?

**Peter Argent**

I can't split Norwood, North, West and Eagles. (Injuries will decide – maybe Norwood to miss)

**Don Cooper**

The battle for the double chance is destined to come down to the final round, when the Redlegs take on their nemesis North Adelaide, while the Bloods host the Eagles.

My feeling is both the Roosters and Eagles will be locked on the same points by this stage of the season, and the right to enter the major round with a greater margin for error will hinge on these results.

By round 23, Norwood will have worked out how to defeat the Roosters and the Eagles will grind out a hard fought win against a side which has already cemented a place in the Qualifying Final.

Top three will end as Norwood, West and Eagles.

**Phil Herden**

Very hard to pick which of the top four will drop out.

Norwood have the premiership pedigree, West are on the improve, North have great consistency and I work for the Eagles who have the longest winning streak in the League.

If forced to do so I would say North would be the one to miss, but there is no confidence or much reasoning in this prediction.

**John Nankivell**

At this stage it is hard to say. It really could be any combination.

I will go for Norwood, West Adelaide and North Adelaide, though the Eagles could certainly make it.

This is going to be a battle that will last all season.

**Phil Aspinnall**

I think that is a very tricky question to answer, right now.

The Bloods are sitting on top of

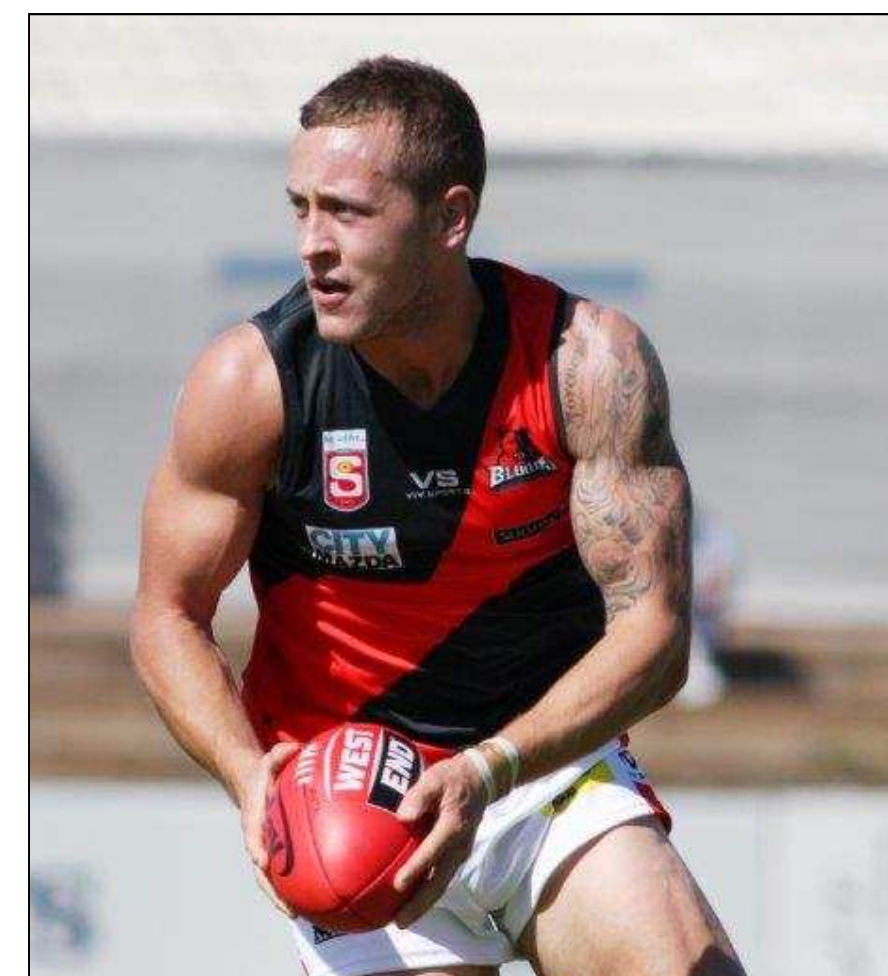
the table, playing some very attractive football, while the Redlegs have had a couple of hiccups but still sit second.

At this stage I think that the 2012 Grand Finalists are both safe in regards to securing a top three position at the end of the minor round.

It is a real toss of the coin for that third position, between the Eagles and North Adelaide.

The Roosters have played some very good football so far, but only sit in fourth position despite just dropping one game.

I'm going to say the Eagles will just fall short of a top three spot, although I think it will be pretty close and may well come down to percentage.



**Taite Silverlock**

**Images**

**Peter Argent 0411 178 444**

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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.

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### 7) What remaining minor round games are you most looking forward to?

#### Peter Argent

The rematch of the Bloods and Norwood.

North vs Norwood,  
Eagles vs Norwood,  
North vs West,  
North vs Eagles,  
Eagles vs West

The rest of the games are just adding to the stats sheets.

#### Don Cooper

There is a plethora of minor round matches remaining which will captivate the imagination of all and sundry, for example the return "bout" between Nathan Bassett's Redlegs and Andy Collin's Bloods at City Mazda Stadium in round 10.

However the one I believe will have a lot riding on it is the Round 23 clash between West Adelaide and the Eagles at the same location.

In conjunction with the Norwood v North clash at Cooper's Stadium the same day, this could well seal the double chance for the Eagles and provide yet another nail-biting finish to a SANFL regular season

**The Bloods v Redlegs rematch has our panel excited.**

**Images**

**Peter Argent**  
0411 178 444

#### Phil Herden

North and Eagles this Saturday will be a great way to get back into the competition, but if the West v Norwood rematch on June 8th doesn't get a big crowd to City Mazda Stadium I am not sure what will.

#### John Nankivell

This Saturday's game at Prospect between North and the Eagles will be a beauty.

Also the round 10 ANZAC day rematch between Norwood and West Adelaide will be interesting on a number of levels, and will be full of feeling.

#### Phil Aspinall

Everyone will probably say the Round 10 clash, at City Mazda

Stadium, between West Adelaide and Norwood as the game they are most looking forward to, especially after the 'rumble in the tunnel' fiasco at The Parade, back on ANZAC Day.

The tension and built up rivalry now forming between these two clubs certainly gives excitement to their next meeting.

But for myself, it will actually be the Round 18 clash between Central and North Adelaide out at Playford Alive Oval.

Yes, it should be a good match up, but my excitement will be that this clash will be the last SANFL game I will see for about a month before I head off on my first overseas adventure, travelling over to Europe, with my wife to meet her Polish family.

