

Staying Power: jumper lead to start off

By MICHAELANGELO RUCCI
AFL

IN Port Adelaide's pre-AFL club song – the one Bob McLean "borrowed" from South Melbourne in 1971 – is the theme of honouring club symbols such as the jumper.

On Saturday, the Power certainly did this while wearing a one-off replica of the 2004 premiership guernsey against Brisbane.

But more honourable was how this raw and ambitious Power group led by Travis Boak already has captured the flag-winning theme that took so long to sink in at Alberton as Port stumbled through the 2001-2003 final series before securing that breakthrough AFL flag. It was all about team in 2004. It is certainly based on team a decade later.

As the Power faced their first real test from the injury curse that can hobble would-be finals contenders, Boak's men proved their collective efforts as a united group will always achieve more than the heroics of two or three individuals trying to carry the team on their own shoulders.

"At every break," Boak said of the spirit that manifested into a 113-point smashing of the Lions, "we spoke about making sure we were doing the team thing."

"No one goes away from doing those little things that

add up as your behaviour in a match – tackling, the contested side of a game.

"No one goes into playing their own game. It was all about team. That is our focus."

Port on Saturday returned to Adelaide Oval – where they have a 3-0 AFL record dating to 2011 – with much to be learned on how Boak's team would handle the challenge of rebounding from defeat.

A year ago, the Power followed their first loss under new coach Ken Hinkley with four consecutive losses. The self-correction – after the seven-point loss to North Melbourne at Etihad Stadium – reaffirmed Hinkley's observation that his players are quick learners.

"There was a focus on how the club would get itself up after a loss and on a short turnaround (six days)," Boak said after his career-best 41 disposals set the team agenda on Saturday.

"And Brisbane was coming off a 0-3 start (and much soul-searching prompted by first-year coach Justin Leppitsch). So we felt it was a bit of a danger game – and they (the Lions) did come out hard early."

"The great thing from our side of things was how we played four quarters."

"We'd spoken about doing the little things right – the team stuff and getting the job done – and we did it for four quarters."

McKenna sees sunshine despite flogging

By ED JACKSON
AFL

IT was their biggest loss in almost two years but Gold Coast coach Guy McKenna is holding fire before he unloads on his Suns players.

The Suns were belted by 99 points by Hawthorn on Saturday, their heaviest defeat since going down by 126 on the road against West Coast in Round 14, 2012.

McKenna admitted a second-half fadeout, where his team kicked just one goal in the second half against the Hawks, was a concern.

But he said he would take time before contemplating whether changes would be needed for Sunday's MCG clash with Melbourne.

"We'll sit down and the sun will come up tomorrow," McKenna said.

"We'll put the tape on and

see if that shows anything of a common thread.

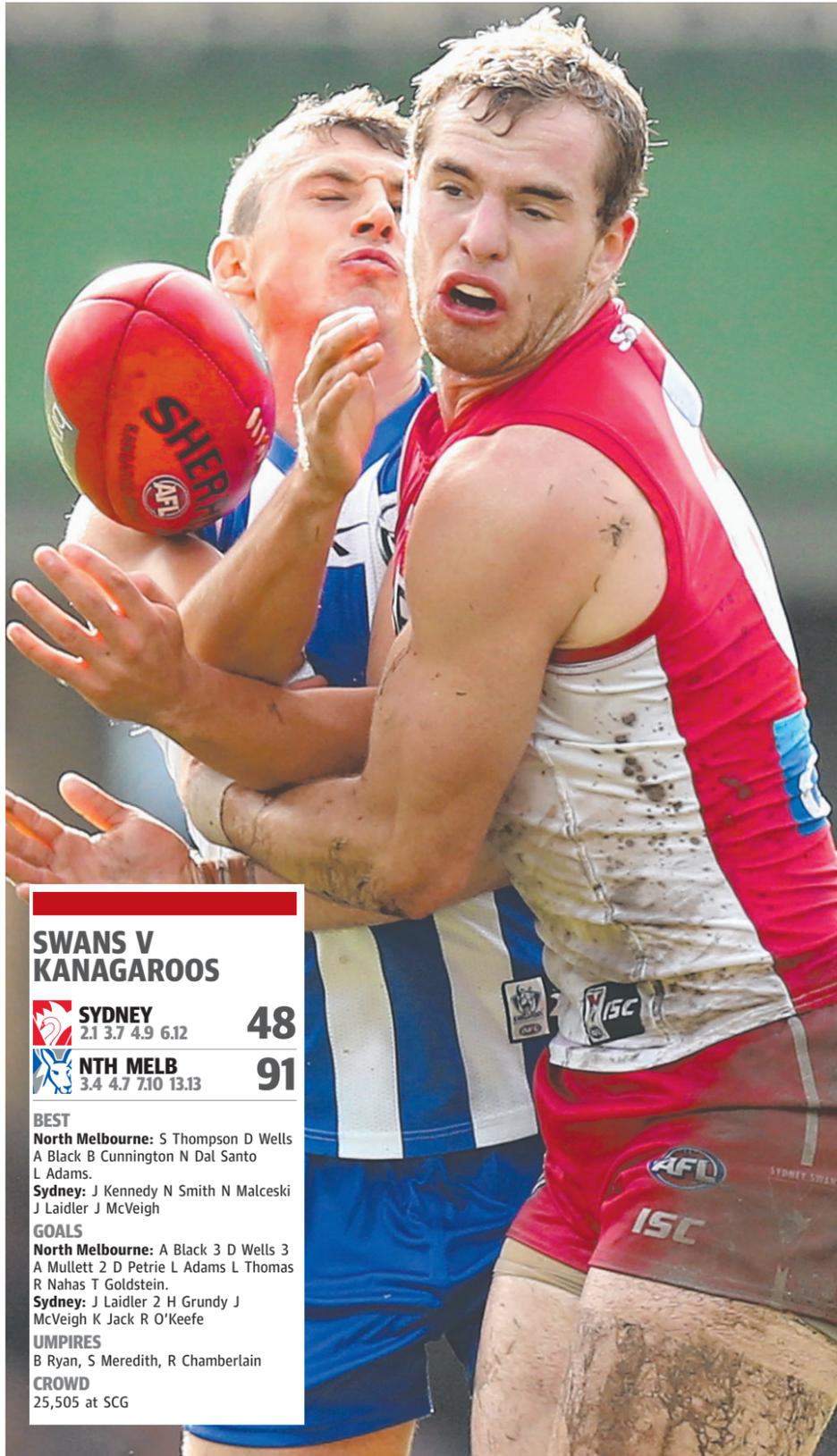
"There might be a common thread with our players that didn't perform well.

"If there is, we need to turn those players over and move in new players that are prepared to honour our style of football."

The Suns will be forced into at least one change against the Demons with young defender Clay Cameron injuring his shoulder against the Hawks.

McKenna said the 19-year-old had suffered a grade two tear in the AC joint in his shoulder and will miss at least two weeks.

Former Brisbane Broncos rugby league star Karmichael Hunt also suffered a setback in his quest to return to the top grade, suffering a concussion in the Suns' reserves fixture which will put him in doubt for the Demons match in AFL Round 5.



SWANS V KANGAROO

	SYDNEY 2.1 3.7 4.9 6.12	48
	NTH MELB 3.4 4.7 7.10 13.13	91

BEST

North Melbourne: S Thompson D Wells
A Black B Cunnington N Dal Santo
L Adams.

Sydney: J Kennedy N Smith N Malceski
J Laidler J McVeigh

GOALS

North Melbourne: A Black 3 D Wells 3
A Mullett 2 D Petrie L Adams L Thomas
R Nahas T Goldstein.

Sydney: J Laidler 2 H Grundy J
McVeigh K Jack R O'Keefe

UMPIRES

B Ryan, S Meredith, R Chamberlain

CROWD

25,505 at SCG

North Melbourne's Ben Jacobs competes for the ball against Sydney's Tom Mitchell during the Kangaroos' 43-point win at the SCG yesterday

Picture: RYAN PIERSE

Roos belt Swans on muddy SCG

By ADRIAN WARREN
AFL

NORTH Melbourne have underlined their rising AFL stocks and raised questions about Sydney's with a drought-breaking 43-point win over the Swans at the SCG yesterday.

The Kangaroos led at every change on their way to a thumping 13.13 (91) to 6.12 (48) victory.

It was their first win over Sydney in nine games and seven years, and their first at the SCG in 10 years and past five attempts.

The victory lifted the Kangaroos to a 3-1 record and dropped Sydney to 1-3.

Aaron Black and Daniel Wells kicked three goals for the visitors, who led by nine, six and 19 at the three breaks.

They kicked six goals to two in a dominant final-quarter performance, while Sydney kicked just one major in each of the last three quarters.

The Swans have lost at all three Sydney AFL venues this season. Sydney kicked two of the first three goals, but the Kangaroos booted the next three and never relinquished the lead.

Driving rain lashed the ground from halfway through the first quarter until late in the third term.

Sydney hung in while it was wet, but once the sun broke through they were swamped.

Ben Cunnington tallied 30 touches for the winners, who had 10 players with 20 or more possessions.

Sydney's only multiple goal-kicker was defender Jeremy Laidler, who kicked two.

Sydney forward Lance Franklin kicked one behind and had just 13 touches, while opponent Scott Thompson was one of the visitors' best.

Wounded Lions roar about how it's prime time for them to fix season

BRISBANE captain Jed Adcock says Easter Thursday cannot come quick enough.

The Lions will meet Richmond in the nationally televised prime time clash at the Gabba that is more "mockbuster" than blockbuster given both teams will limp into the contest out of form and out of sorts.

The Tigers are floundering at 1-3 while winless Brisbane

are last on the ladder after a 113-point hiding from Port Adelaide on Saturday.

The Lions will be without arguably their four most important players with Daniel Rich (knee), Daniel Merrett (suspension), Pearce Hanley (hamstring) and Matthew Leuenberger (knee) all to watch from the grandstand.

Hanley was at the Gabba yesterday receiving treatment

on the hamstring he damaged against the Power.

Scans today will reveal how long the Irishman will be out of action.

Leuenberger will have scans today on his right knee.

The Lions fear he will require surgery to repair the meniscus damage suffered in the second quarter on Saturday and spend up to six weeks on the sidelines.

Adcock said the short turnaround may be a blessing in disguise for the Lions.

"The longer it drags out until your next game, the more you think about what happened (against the Power)," he said.

"We've got an opportunity to right a few wrongs in five days' time."

"We still need to review what happened and learn from

it but it will be good to move on and get ready for Richmond.

"It is a big game for the club. We don't get too many prime time television games so we've got to come out and show something for our supporters."

Adcock said the injuries to the star duo of Leuenberger and Hanley were no excuse for the shattering loss to the rampant Power.

"I don't think they played a

major part in the result. We got beaten inside, outside, everywhere," he said.

"We didn't contest the ball well enough when it came inside 50 and we didn't maintain possession.

"Our skill level just wasn't up to scratch.

"You have to go through the tough times to come out the other side so we'll keep working hard."