



Postcode 51319 – The Night Jamie Smyth Delivered 19 Goals

Chris Brown

It was Friday night, 4 July 2025. A crowd of players, officials, family members and friends assembled at the Lights Community Centre to watch Norwood take on West Adelaide at 7.55pm. It's Round 3 of the SANFL Wheelchair competition and although it was Independence Day in the USA, the crowd in attendance did not anticipate seeing history made in what became "Demolition Day" on the court.

Norwood had lost to Central District the previous week in what was a highly contested, physical game. But tonight, the Redlegs were right on song, creating space and maximising the use of that space with quick and precise ball movement. Even better, the play was culminating in incredibly accurate goal scoring with Jamie Smyth (number 13) and Grant Leonard (number 1), struggling to actually miss any shot on goal. At quarter time, the scores were:

Norwood 9-1-55

West Adelaide 0-1-1

Not content with just one good quarter, the team urged themselves to continue to play like they were, and so they did. West Adelaide had composed themselves at quarter time though, and the second quarter proved to be a much more even affair.



Smyth has the first shot on goal of the second quarter.



Norwood kicked another four goals and West Adelaide kicked two of their own. At half time, Jamie Smyth had 9 goals to his name and his partner up forward Grant Leonard, had 4 goals himself.

Norwood 13-3-81
West Adelaide 2-2-14

It was at about this time, that I asked the match day commentator Lachlan Gould and SANFL Official Nathan Pepper, what the record number of goals kicked in a match was. The reply was swift – the Eagles’ Trevor Jarrett had kicked 17 goals only the week before. With 9 goals at half time, it was clear that Jamie Smyth was well on target to threaten the record.



Norwood players in their huddle. Clockwise - Michael Neroni (2), Grant Leonard (1), Rick Leonard, Jamie Smyth, Michael Hingston (standing), Richie Davis, Chris Simpson, Holly Gould, Simon Hingston and co-coach John Musolino.

Somewhat aggrieved by having had a more closely fought second quarter, the Redlegs demanded that they ‘put the foot back down’ and play dominant football again in the third quarter, like they had in the first. In the third quarter, Smyth kicked another 5 goals and Leonard kicked two himself, taking their personal tallies to 14 for Smyth and 6 for Leonard.



Smyth would now need to kick 3 goals in the last quarter to equal Jarrett's record of the previous week, or 4 goals to break the record.

At three quarter time, the scores were

Norwood 20-4-124

West Adelaide 2-3-15.



Smyth in the huddle at three quarter time.

With five minutes remaining in the game, Smyth had only added one more goal to his tally and the tension was building - with the audible excitement of the commentator Lachlan Gould, keeping the crowd informed all the way.



Smyth has a long range shot on goal in the final quarter.

Incredibly, like they had for the whole game, Smyth and his Captain Grant Leonard were unselfish in sharing the scoring around with the help of exceptional delivery from their team mates. Watching Smyth give the ball off to Leonard when the record was within sight only added to the tension and at the same time, Leonard himself needed one more goal to make double figures with ten goals.

Although Leonard was ultimately stranded on nine goals at the end of the game (and two of his shots also hit the post), Smyth was not to be denied of the league and club record. After equalling the record with his 17th goal and breaking the record with his 18th goal, Smyth fittingly found the ball in his hand just before the final siren sounded. He passed the ball off to Simon Hingston in the goalsquare but the umpire brought the ball back to Smyth and the final siren sounded. With the last kick of the night (after the siren), Smyth saluted once more with his 19th goal. Incredibly – he had kicked 19 goals without a single miss.



When you consider that the goals in wheelchair football are only 1.5m wide, and shots are taken from a moving wheelchair, his clean sheet of behinds made this record all the more outstanding.

Jamie Smyth was playing just his third game for Norwood, after crossing over from Central at the end of the 2024 season. His previous highest tally in a game was 12 goals.

Not only was Smyth's 19 goals straight a personal best, a club best and a league best, the score is also the third highest of *any* Norwood senior player. Only Bos Daly with 23.1 in 1893 (all placekicks, and with his solitary behind a result of hitting the post), and Bruce Schultz's 19.2 in 1941 (also hitting the post twice), eclipse Smyth's feat of 19 goals straight last night.

Guernsey number 13 was certainly a lucky number for Smyth. With efficient delivery from his team mates, and efficient conversion, his feat on "Demolition Day" almost demands he be given an honorary postcode to recognise the feat. It could be 51219, with the number 5 for South Australia, 13 being his guernsey number, and 19 being his goal tally for the night.

Following the immediate post-match celebrations, attention turned to the scoreboard which showed Norwood defeating West Adelaide by 150 points. Final scores were:

Norwood 28-4-172

West Adelaide 3-4-22

Goalkickers: Smyth 19 Leonard 9.4 (and two of these behinds hit the post).



Grant Leonard kicks one of his nine goals.



Post match – Jamie Smyth with 19 goals straight under his belt and an incredible record.