



ATTITUDE: The Crows' Jarryd Lyons gets a handball away from the Eagles' Xavier Ellis at Subiaco Oval on Saturday night.

Picture: GETTY

Lyons playing as if his career is at stake

REECE HOMFRAY
PERTH

JARRYD Lyons doesn't need to say that he's playing for his career every time he runs out for Adelaide this season.

You can see it in his actions - his attack on the ball, his strength in the contest and willingness to tackle as he fights for not only another game next week but another contract next season.

Lyons' stop-start career has seen him play 43 games in five years at Adelaide but already this year he's played eight including the last four in a row.

"Well basically the last four weeks have just been make-or-break for me," said Lyons who has been screaming so loudly he's almost lost his voice for the past two weeks.

"I'm going out there and playing as if it's my last AFL game I'm going to play and so far so good but I couldn't do it without the boys."

Lyons' hard-fought 23 disposals in Saturday night's win over West Coast typified his attitude this year and his lunging tackle to force a turnover in the final quarter helped seal the result.

With David Mackay applying pressure, Lyons stuck the tackle on Will Schofield in the middle of the ground and the ball went from Taylor Walker to Charlie Cameron to Josh Jenkins for a goal which put the Crows 15 points up.

"That's what we said in there; everyone had their moment in that last quarter, the backs were just unbelievable to keep the ball in our forward

Everyone contributed and we never stopped believing
JARRYD LYONS

half, pressing up and taking marks," Lyons said.

"The midfielders put as much pressure on as we could and the forwards finished their work so it was just a team effort."

The 23-year-old described Adelaide's 29-point win over the Eagles as "massive" going into the mid-season bye.

"We came here believing we could win and coming into that last quarter we just looked at each other and knew we had it in us," Lyons said.



"We came in at three-quarter-time and knew we were only two goals down and didn't stop believing.

"The first quarter was a little bit off, the second quarter we adjusted and played well and the third quarter we gave away a few easy goals but were always in the contest and once we put it all together it showed in that last quarter.

"Everyone contributed and we never stopped believing but we've got to keep going up now for the rest of the year, it sets a standard.

"We could have been 7-5 or 8-4 going into the bye and it cements us for a little bit but by no means are we done, we have a big second half of the year to come so we'll rest up over the next couple of weeks and come out firing."

WEST COAST V ADELAIDE

	CROWS	3.1 6.5 9.10 15.15	105
	EAGLES	5.6 9.6 11.10 11.10	76

BEST

Crows: Sloane, Betts, Thompson, Seedsman, Lever, Lynch, Talia, Lyons.

Eagles: McGovern, Hurn, Priddis, Shuey, Hutchings.

GOALS

Crows: Betts 5, Jenkins 3, Walker 2, Douglas, McGovern, Cameron, Lynch, Atkins.

Eagles: Kennedy 3, Darling, Yeo 2; Gaff, Hutchings, Hill, Duggan.

UMPIRES

Farmer, Rosebury, Hay.

CROWD

37,591 at Subiaco Oval



TOP MARK: Charlie Cameron marks the ball under pressure.



WINNER: Jake Lever gets a handpass away.

Wounded Kangaroos facing season-defining tests

SAM LANDSBERGER

NORTH Melbourne yesterday rested three players from the VFL to ensure it will have fit replacements if needed for Friday night's litmus test against Hawthorn.

The Kangaroos will today count the cost from Saturday night's wounding loss to Geelong and did not want to risk Farren Ray, Trent Dumont or

Corey Wagner in Werribee's loss to Richmond.

The Roos suffered five injuries but could still escape with all passed fit to face the Hawks.

Captain Andrew Swallow (concussion) appears in the most doubt, followed by Nick Dal Santo (adductor).

Ben Cunnington battled on after copping a nasty corkie while goalsneak Robbie Nahas

suffered a compound fracture to his little finger, but will play if he does not require surgery.

Shaun Atley hurt his ankle in the final quarter while ruckman Todd Goldstein also appears to be playing sore.

Defender Robbie Tarrant yesterday said Dal Santo should be fine after playing out the match as the Roos enter a season-defining block of games.

Brad Scott's men have dropped two of their past three games and now face the Hawks (Etihad Stadium) and Adelaide (Adelaide Oval) off consecutive six-day breaks.

After the bye the Roos travel to face West Coast.

But they then encounter another nightmare month leading into September.

But vice-captain Jack Ziebell yesterday said the Kangas

had already proved their football stood the test of big games and legend Wayne Carey said if they could not beat fellow finalists mid-season they would fall short in the finals.

Hawthorn defender Ben Stratton said that North's triple-pronged attack of Ben Brown, Jarrad Waite and Drew Petrie loomed as a danger.

Stratton usually takes Brown while Waite's form has

dropped with the former Blue failing to kick a goal for three weeks.

Stratton dismissed talk the revitalised Hawks were not a serious threat to claim their fourth consecutive premiership.

The Hawks beat up on the Kangaroos last year in a spiteful contest which saw Jordan Lewis and Luke Hodge suspended.