

Assuming all is well, and he is selected this week against UQ, Quickie will bring up 100 senior games. Nathan has played 38 games in the NEAFL and 62 in the QAFL. He joins Troy McGuane, Ben Tindall, Korey Fulton, Ben Walters, Jesse Derrick, Darrin Stewart, Mark Harris and Matt Fife as QAFL/NEAFL Broadbeach centurions.

Quickie is one of those players every coach would request list managers to find. At 193cm, and at last something in excess of 80kg, he has the physical attributes to mix it with the best, particularly given his agility for a player of his height. And it is not surprising that he has served time in every slot down the spine and indeed across the centre line.

Quickie could be accused of being a shrinking violet but he has his own way of setting about winning a game of footy. The complete opposite of irascible, he is inclined to let his actions win the day. Indeed we have seen him subjected to the most vile of cowardly acts (at Sherwood in his younger days) after which he bravely stood his ground under verbal and further physical provocation, to outplay his feral opponent, all the time wearing a Lewis Carroll type grin. An expert at the psychological contest within a physical context.

Nathan is a son of Mexicans, born in Geelong and an avid auskicker who was denied a half time game at Kardinia Park because he was too young at 5yo. But he wasn't too young to run out with Dad as a mascot in the Geelong Football League. On graduating to a junior league he discovered his pace and agility and complained to whomever would listen about the zone play that prevented a run from the middle while evading all-comers to do what footballers do, kick goals.

On migrating north he passed hours playing by himself using palm trees as goal posts which may account for his brilliance at full back. He started at Broady as a 6yo in the U/9s and the following year would knock up a couple of games on the same day for the U/9s and U/10s. By the time he hit the U/12s he was selected as one of only two bottom age players in the Gold Coast rep side - the other was one Dane Zorko. And he buttered up the next year in the U/12 rep side.

Perhaps other passions diverted him and Quickie sat out footy until he returned in the second year U/16s to play full back in the grand final knocking over the enemy Southport. Full back was the conventional wisdom for the U/18s and then he progressed to senior footy in 2008 after games in the Twos while still qualifying for the Colts.

In 2008 under Shaun Hart, Quickie had 4 games in the Ones for 1 vote and polled 17 votes to finish 3rd in the Magoos B&F. In 2009 under Smithy he upped his senior total by 6 while playing 10 in the Twos. 2010 was his break out season. He played a full deck of 18 games finishing 5th in the B&F with 17 votes and walked away with the Most Professional player award. And in further recognition of his status in QAFL ranks was selected at full back for the Queensland under 21 side. At this stage Nathan was also busy in his Exercise

Science degree at Griffith. And he would use his knowledge in both pre-season and seasonal preparation. Little wonder he won the most professional award. He was to win that award again in 2013.

The club entered the NEAFL competition in 2011 under Matt Angus. Our recollections are that this was the season in which he was thrown into a number of roles. Selectors and injury limited him to 11 in the Ones and 4 in the Twos. He polled 17 votes in a strange system that saw Tink win with 123, and knocked up 23 in the Twos which Frawls won with 79. In 2012, he was again asked to fill varied roles and his confidence suffered. He added another 11 senior games and attained his 50 milestone, while playing 7 in the Twos but failed to bother BOG adjudicators in both grades to any great extent. He was back to his best in 2013 with 16 games in the seniors and for the second time winning the Most Professional award.

2014 saw us revert to a restructured QAFL under the leadership of Pedro Petterd. Matty Angus went across to Southport in the NEAFL and took La Crème de la Crème of our list with him. Quickie, along with a couple of others who were likely candidates for Southport's final list (and better remuneration), refused the offer. Such was his character that he preferred not to leave Broady in the lurch. He had an outstanding year playing 18, finishing 10th in the B&F with 24 votes, and selected in the QAFL representative program playing one game.

Unfortunately in the very last game of the season he did a knee. His professionalism saw him through an extensive and intensive recuperation program and he lined up at full forward in the opening round. Lately he has been deployed to the full back position and nominated by coach Brett Andrews as the best backman going around in the QAFL.

He has 'stood' the best the NEAFL/QAFL have had to offer over the years. Brilliant at times, most reliable at worst, with just a sometime iffy judgement in low clearances. But this bloke has it all: attitude, the smarts, aerial skills, pace for a big bloke, and will contest the ball. Never, repeat never, gives up and is scared of letting the team down. A professional in the 'wellness' game as the sole proprietor of Quick Fit Health 'n Fitness, Quickie is carving out a future that hopefully equips him to continue playing for some time come.

To cap it off, if you had a daughter, you'd be pretty smug if Quickie came around. These days Mr and Mrs Natalie must be happy waiting for twins?

Congratulations Quickie from all at the Cattery.