

NORTH Melbourne's Nick Dal Santo says Geelong's home-and-away season dominance is a sobering reminder that will erase all complacency at Arden St this week.

The Roos built up a huge head of steam by beating Essendon in Saturday's knockout final, and coach Brad Scott will take on twin brother Chris in a final for the first time on Friday night.

North has beaten most top contenders this year but lost both clashes against Geelong and has won only two of its past 12 against the Cats.

The Kangaroos lost to Geelong by 20 points in Round 10 and 32 points in Round 19, results Dal Santo said would ensure there was no smugness this week.

"We have got a big challenge this week," Dal Santo said.

"We played them twice and lost both times and we haven't played very well in those games. It's not like we were competitive or played a good game of footy. But you never know, finals are different and we will have a real crack at it."

Dal Santo signed with North last off-season and is thrilled to be playing in September again after two barren years at St Kilda.

"When you win games and get to play finals and give ourselves another opportunity, it feels good," he said.

"I played finals so often at St Kilda and you think it's going to happen every year,

#### JON RALPH

and then you miss out and you realise how special they are. I am rapt to be part of it — a new club and a new challenge and it's so enjoyable."

Dal Santo, 30, has now notched 100 consecutive games twice in his 283-game career, an amazing feat.

It means he has every hope of going close to 400 games if he keeps playing quality football, but he put it down to good fortune.

"I have been a little bit lucky," he said. "I don't do any extra recovery or anything. I have just had a few injuries and broken bones along the way and I get through it."

"I love playing footy and it's good to be out there every week and hopefully it can be a few more weeks."

Dal Santo said everyone at Arden St had fallen in love with forward Ben Brown, 21.

"Where do I start?" he said. "He is my new favourite player."

"He is what you see. He has come from a long way back, but he just presents and it's all you can ask from guys, just to present."



Nick Dal Santo goes shoulder to shoulder with Harry Taylor at Simonds Stadium in Round 10. Picture: GETTY IMAGES

2nd SEMI-FINAL




GEELONG v NORTH MELB

MCG, FRIDAY 7.50PM