

JAMES HIRD

ACADEMY

WELCOME TO 2011!

Hello and welcome to the first James Hird Academy newsletter for Season 2011!

With the introduction of the Gold Coast Suns this year, and the Greater Western Sydney Giants next year, the importance of being able to identify young talent, and then develop it within a club environment, has never been greater. With that in mind, Essendon launched the James Hird Academy in 2010 to deliver a tailored program to prospective father/son candidates, NSW scholarship holders, and international scholarship holders, with an initial intake of 21 young men.

The program returns again this year, aiming to build on the achievements from last year, and also expand its focus as well as its importance within the Club. This year, we welcome to the Academy for the first time Tom Wallis (son of Dean Wallis), Jordan Williams (son of Darren "Daisy" Williams), and Callum and Harvey Daniher (son's of Chris).

Our select group of Academy members will be provided with a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of the football club, and receive the same expert training and advice that is afforded our professional senior players.

Also, this year will see the introduction of the Baby Bombers, an initiative aimed at boys under the age of 14 who are sons of ex-Essendon players eligible under the father/son rule. More details on this to follow.

This is an exciting time for the football club, and particularly the James Hird Academy, as we all work towards returning our club to its rightful position at the top of the AFL tree!



Ian Robson, Chief Executive Officer
Essendon Football Club

A WORD FROM HIRD! A word from Senior Coach, James Hird.

Hello to everyone, and welcome to the James Hird Academy for season 2011.

As new senior coach of the Essendon Football Club, I feel extremely proud to be leading our players into an exciting new era. We invite you to be a part of this journey, by your participation in all activities of the Academy. The Essendon Football Club is part of your extended family, so our coaches and staff are here to help you learn and develop.

Give it your best shot, and GO BOMBERS! **James Hird - Senior Coach**



INTRODUCING OUR NEW SPONSOR

The James Hird Academy is proud to announce that it has secured a significant sponsorship contribution from the Fontana Transport and Logistics Group, courtesy of Joe Fontana, a lifelong Bombers supporter.

"I was born and raised in Essendon and will support the club for life, it's a pleasure to be part of this great program", Joe says proudly.

On behalf of all involved with the Academy, we thank Fontana for their generosity and their enormous show of support for this initiative, which will go a long way to delivering an unrivalled development program.

Also, in addition to this sponsorship initiative, the James Hird Academy is offering all supporters the opportunity to become a Player Sponsor to one of the Academy Members. Please call Ryan Legudi on 0434 528 648 or Adrian Dodoro on 0425 736 769 to discuss these opportunities.



James Hird Academy Members - Scholarship Holders

PLAYER	AGE	SCHOLARSHIP
Nick Ryan	18	NSW Scholarship
Oliver Tweeddale	18	NSW Scholarship
David Meli	18	International Scholarship
Kieran Brennan	17	NSW Scholarship
Jedd Clothier	15	NSW Scholarship
Max Lavai	15	International Scholarship

James Hird Academy Members - Father/Sons

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Tom Fields	18	Neville Fields
Joe Daniher	17	Anthony Daniher
Jordan Williams	17	Darren Williams
Daniel Thompson	16	Mark Thompson
Chris Carey	16	Steve Carey
Jydon Neagle	16	Merv Neagle
Todd Vander Haar	15	Paul Vander Haar
Callum Daniher	15	Chris Daniher
Jake Long	15	Michael Long
Tom Wallis	14	Dean Wallis
Jett Bewick	13	Darren Bewick
Harvey Daniher	13	Chris Daniher
Matthew Neagle	13	Merv Neagle

James Hird Academy Members - Baby Bombers

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Jackson Neagle	11	Merv Neagle
Kurtis Barnard	10	Paul Barnard
Mason Fletcher	10	Dustin Fletcher
Darcy Denham	10	Sean Denham
Ricky O'Donnell	10	Gary O'Donnell
Tom Hird	10	James Hird
Max Fletcher	8	Dustin Fletcher
Alexander Hird	7	James Hird
Joshua Misiti	7	Joe Misiti
Tex Wanganeen	7	Gavin Wanganeen
Luca Alessio	6	Steve Alessio
Will Hamilton	6	Paul Hamilton
Luke Barnard	6	Paul Barnard
Noah Caracella	5	Blake Caracella
Alex Alessio	4	Steve Alessio
Aiden Ramanauskas	2	Adam Ramanauskas
William Hird	2	James Hird
Thomas Caracella	2	Blake Caracella
Koby Bewick	2	Darren Bewick
Max Alessio	1	Steve Alessio
Lucas Ramanauskas	1	Adam Ramanauskas



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JAME⁵HIRD

A C A D E M Y

ACADEMY SUCCESS ALREADY!

We are pleased to report that a number of our 2010 Academy Members have achieved some significant milestones over the last 12 months.



JOE DANIHER
(son of Anthony Daniher)

The club is delighted that Joe has committed to Essendon and will be selected under the father/son rule in the 2012 Draft. Joe is the son of champion fullback Anthony Daniher and although he was eligible to be taken under the father/son rule by Sydney, decided to join his older brother Darcy and continue the

proud history of Daniher's to play for the Bombers. Adrian Dodoro, Manager, Player Personnel, describes Joe as a skilful and agile ruckman who can also play forward and is among the best 16 year olds in the country. "He is a prodigious talent and this is a major coup for Essendon given that if there was a National Draft for 16 year olds, he would be number 1 or 2 at the moment."



JEDD CLOTHIER
(NSW Scholarship)

The Academy also congratulates young James Hird Academy member, Jedd Clothier, on an outstanding 2010 season, culminating in his selection in the under 15 All Australian team. Jedd was also awarded the prestigious NSW All Schools Sports Award for Football, previous recipients of this award include Steve Waugh and Ian Thorpe.



DAVID MELI
(International scholarship, PNG)

The Academy is also delighted with the elevation of David Meli to the senior international rookie list for 2011. David was a member of the James Hird Academy in 2010, represented Queensland in the National Championships, and played a key role in the premiership success of the Calder Cannons in the TAC Cup last year. A sublimely skilled small forward, David joins the club on a full time basis in 2011.



JAMES WEBSTER
(NSW scholarship)

The Academy also congratulates James Webster on his elevation to the rookie list for 2011. James is the first of our NSW scholarship holders to be elevated to the senior playing list. A hard running utility, James has impressed all with his dedication and enthusiasm on the track throughout pre-season training.



WALLY'S TIP!

In each newsletter, our development coach Dean Wallis will provide Wally's Tip, a small snippet to assist young players to improve their game.

THIS ISSUE'S TIP IS:

"Concentrate on the fundamentals and basics of the game, become a great kick, become a great mark, become a great handballer".

Dean Wallis, Development Coach



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JAMES HIRD

ACADEMY

MEMBER IN PROFILE

DANIEL THOMPSON

FATHER: Mark Thompson

AGE: 16

HEIGHT: 189cm

SCHOOL: St Bernard's College

HOBBIES & INTERESTS: Movies, Friends

FAVOURITE POSITION: Half-Forward Flank

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Jason Winderlich



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

PLAYER	BIRTHDAY
Jake Long	3 February (Age 15)
Kieran Brennan	11 February (Age 17)
Tom Wallis	14 February (Age 14)
Matthew Neagle	19 February (Age 13)
William Hird	20 February (Age 2)
Kurtis Barnard	20 February (Age 10)
Oliver Tweeddale	25 February (Age 18)
Will Hamilton	1 March (Age 6)
Joe Daniher	4 March (Age 17)
Luke Barnard	4 March (Age 6)
Jordan Williams	7 March (Age 17)
Tom Hird	28 March (Age 10)

FINAL WORDS

I am delighted to have the opportunity to be involved with the James Hird Academy for 2011. This is an exciting time for the club, and the Academy will no doubt build on the momentum the club has gathered through the off-season.

We are currently finalising the details of the 2011 program, which will be delivered to Academy members shortly. But in the meantime, please keep an eye out on essendonfc.com.au for upcoming news and events.

The success of the James Hird Academy will ultimately be determined by the input each of you puts into the program. We encourage all Academy members, family members, ex-players, members and Essendon supporters to get 100% behind the Academy for 2011.

If you would like to assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Legudi on **0434 528 648** or via email at rlegudi@essendonfc.com.au.

Ryan Legudi
Program Co-ordinator, James Hird Academy



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