

JAMES 5 HIRD

A C A D E M Y

WELCOME MESSAGE



Hello and welcome to the first James Hird Academy Newsletter for 2014.

The JHA is now embarking upon its fourth year of operation and our Academy ranks of Baby Bombers are growing in number by the day.

This year will see the JHA focus on the Next Generation of Academy members.

To qualify for the Next Generation training program, players must be between the ages of 12 and 14. This period marks a pivotal stage in every aspiring footballer's development and the JHA is here to help guide these youngsters and prepare for their eventual transition to the Acceleration Group.

Members of the Next Generation program are sure to benefit greatly from the boundless football nous and dedicated tutelage of JHA Head Coach, Marty Allison, who is thoroughly

enjoying his first full season at the helm of the Academy.

As part of this specialised squadron, Academy members will participate in two football camps to be held at the True Value Solar Centre – the new home of the Essendon Football Club. The first of these camps will take place next month and we look forward to bringing you all the news and details from the eagerly anticipated training camp in the next issue of the JHA Newsletter.

Don't forget, you can stay up to date with the latest developments from the James Hird Academy by visiting the following address: www.essendonfc.com.au/team/james-hird-academy

Good luck to all Academy Members with their continuing football commitments.

Go Bombers!

JAMES HIRD ACADEMY - ACCELERATION GROUP

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Jake Long	18	Michael Long
Tom Wallis	17	Dean Wallis
Jett Bewick	17	Darren Bewick
Harvey Daniher	16	Chris Daniher
Matthew Neagle	16	Merv Neagle

JAMES HIRD ACADEMY - NEXT GENERATION

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Jaxon Neagle	14	Merv Neagle
Mason Fletcher	14	Dustin Fletcher
Ricky O'Donnell	13	Gary O'Donnell
Darcy Denham	13	Sean Denham
Kurtis Barnard	13	Paul Barnard
Tom Hird	13	James Hird
Max Fletcher	11	Dustin Fletcher
Joshua Misiti	11	Joe Misiti
Nyawi Lovett-Murray	11	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Alex Hird	10	James Hird
Tex Wanganeen	10	Gavin Wanganeen

JAMES HIRD ACADEMY - BABY BOMBERS

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Luca Alessio	9	Steve Alessio
Alwyn Jr Davey	9	Alwyn Davey
Jayden Davey	9	Alwyn Davey
Will Hamilton	9	Paul Hamilton
Luke Barnard	9	Paul Barnard
Noah Caracella	7	Blake Caracella
Alex Alessio	7	Steve Alessio
Aljiah Davey	6	Alwyn Davey
Mara Lovett-Murray	5	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Logan Daniher	5	Chris Daniher
Taj McPhee	5	Adam McPhee
Aidan Ramanauskas	5	Adam Ramanauskas
William Hird	5	James Hird
Koby Bewick	5	Darren Bewick
Max Alessio	4	Steve Alessio
Thomas Caracella	4	Blake Caracella
Lucas Ramanauskas	3	Adam Ramanauskas
Cove McPhee	3	Adam McPhee
Rylan Johnson	2	Mark Johnson
Cruz Davey	2	Alwyn Davey
Noah Peverill	2	Damien Peverill
Lenny Solomon	1	Dean Solomon
Jacob Lloyd	1	Matthew Lloyd
Connor Stanton	1	Brent Stanton
Harlan Ryder	1	Paddy Ryder

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The James Hird Academy wishes to announce the availability of major and individual player sponsorship opportunities for season 2014. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote your product, service or corporation in conjunction with the Academy. If you are interested in entering a sponsorship agreement, please contact Chris Goodwin on 0434 182 351 or cgoodwin@essendonfc.com.au for more information.



MARTY'S MESSAGE

"Hello to all members of the James Hird Academy."

I hope you are enjoying your footy so far this season; I'm certainly relishing my new role with the Essendon Football Club as Coach of the JHA.

I'd like to take this opportunity to emphasise three JHA Values that are important for your development as a person and a footballer.

JHA VALUES:

1. FAMILY

Your family should always be the number one priority in your life. Where would you be without your Mum and Dad to drive you to footy training and the many other things they do for you. Family always comes first, no matter what.

2. EDUCATION

It's all well and good to enjoy playing footy, it's even better if you can make a career out of the game... but the fact is that not everyone who hopes to be an AFL footballer actually becomes one. Education is a vital part of any young person's life and you will reap the rewards of a good education long after you hang up the boots.

It is important that you don't fall into the trap of devoting too much time to footy and not enough time to your school work. Get the balance right. Whatever time you devote to footy, you must devote equal time to your school work.

3. FOOTBALL

Each and every one of you is part of the JHA in an effort to enhance and fast-track your football development so you can be the best player you can be. As the JHA Coach, I will help you become a better footballer but you also need to help yourself and keep improving.

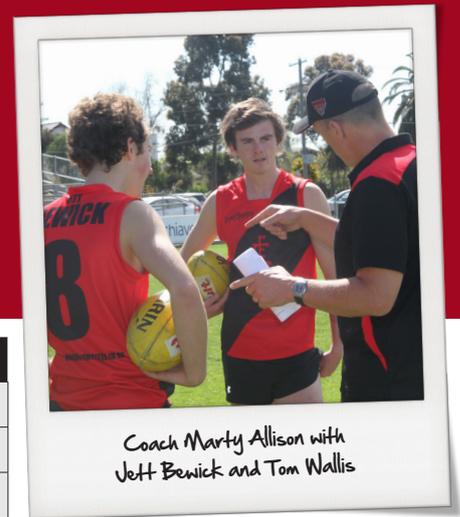
So, always remember the JHA Values:

1. Family always comes first;
2. Education is more important than footy; then
3. Football

Follow these JHA values in all aspects of your life to become a better person and a better footballer.

Have fun out on the footy field and good luck for the rest of the season.

*Marty Allison,
JHA Coach*



Coach Marty Allison with Jett Benick and Tom Wallis

JHA 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

JHA Next Generation Training Camp #1	July 7 – True Value Solar Centre
JHA Next Generation Training Camp #2	September 22 – True Value Solar Centre
JHA Baby Bombers – AusKick Clinics	TBD

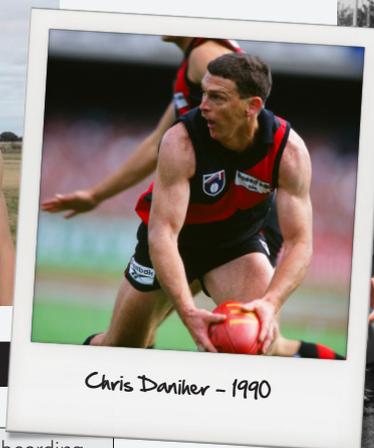
MEMBER IN PROFILE



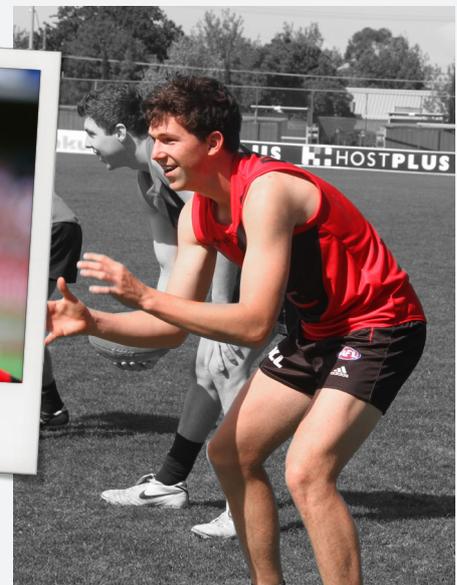
Harvey, Chris and Callum Daniher

HARVEY DANIHER

FAVOURITE PLAYER	Jobe Watson / Chad Wingard
HOBBIES & INTERESTS	Hanging out with friends / wake boarding
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN	Jason Derulo
FAVOURITE TV SHOW	The Walking Dead



Chris Daniher - 1990



AROUND THE GROUNDS



JAKE LONG

Jake is playing school footy for Scotch College in the APS Competition this season. The highly-skilled but lightly-framed youngster lined up for the first game of the year and collected 9 disposals before injuring his ankle. In better news, Jake has been chosen to represent the Northern Territory at the Under 18 National Championships in addition to playing 3 TAC Cup matches. The JHA wishes Jake all the best with his recovery, which should see him return to the field just in time for the start of the Champs.



JETT BEWICK

Unfortunately, Jett has been unable to take the field this year due to back stress fractures. When Jett returns from his injury, he will form part of the Calder Cannons Development Squad and will play for Airport West in the EDFL.



MATTHEW NEAGLE

Underscoring Matthew's football ability, the wily goal-sneak has been selected to be part of the GWS Giants U16 Academy. Matthew also played 3 trial games this season for the GWS Academy against the Sydney Swans Academy, in order to determine the final makeup of the NSW Rams U16 Squad for the National Championships.



TOM WALLIS

Tom is enjoying his first year of TAC Cup football and is playing for the Calder Cannons this season. Continuing his impressive junior form, Tom has played 6 games for an average of 12 disposals and has been named in the bests once. The fleet-footed midfielder has also been invited to be part of the VIC Metro Futures Squad.



HARVEY DANIHER

In an effort to focus on footy, Harvey has relocated to Melbourne this year and is currently playing for the Calder Cannons in the TAC Cup. After a delayed start to the season due to recovering from stress fractures in his foot, Harvey played his first game for the Aberfeldie U18's in the EDFL last weekend and made an encouraging return.



Jett Bewick



Harvey Daniher, Tom Wallis, and Jett Bewick



Tom Wallis

JOE DANIHER - RISING STAR NOMINATION

The James Hird Academy would like to extend warm congratulations to Joe Daniher on earning the Round 12 nomination for the 2014 NAB AFL Rising Star Award. The JHA Graduate backed up his impressive performance in the Dreamtime at The G match by hauling in 9 marks and booting 3 goals the following week against the Giants. Well done Joey!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

A brand new segment of the JHA Newsletter, *Where Are They Now* gives us a chance to catch up with Academy alumni from years gone-by and find out what they've been up to since graduating from the Academy ranks...

DANIEL THOMPSON

Daniel successfully completed a gruelling pre-season with Essendon's VFL team and is continuing to train with the squad. The tall defender is also playing for Aberfeldie in the EDFL, where he has been named in the bests once during his 4 senior games.

JEDD CLOTHIER

After completing the 2014 pre-season with Essendon's VFL side, Jedd has decided not to pursue a VFL spot in 2014 and has chosen to play with a group of mates for the Northern Saints in the EDFL. Jedd has kicked 4 goals from his 7 senior appearances.

TODD VANDER HAAR

After missing all of 2013 with a broken leg, Todd has made a great recovery and is playing for the Old Xaverians U19's in the VAFA. In 7 games he has booted 9 goals, including an impressive bag of 4 and has been listed among the best players once.

CALLUM DANIHER

Having missed the entire 2013 season following a knee reconstruction, Callum has decided to give football away for the time being. He still harbours strong ambitions to stay involved with the game in an off-field capacity and perhaps even as an administrator.

JYDON NEAGLE

Jydon is currently playing for the Wodonga Raiders seniors in the Ovens & Murray Football League. Having played in 5 games this year, he has been named in the bests 4 times and has scored 4 goals.

JORDAN WILLIAMS

Now in his second year at the Frankston Dolphins, Jordan has played a single senior game at VFL level for a return of 8 possessions and 4 tackles. He has also played 5 games for Frankston in the AFL Victoria Development League, being named in the bests 5 times including 3 BOG's.

CHRIS CAREY

Chris is once again playing for his home club of Warragul in the Gippsland League where he has played since 2009 in the U16's. Now in his third year of senior football, Chris is enjoying a sensational start to this season – having been named in the bests in every one of the 6 games he has played, including 4 BOG's. He has also hit the scoreboard, kicking 4 goals.

TOM FIELDS

Playing in his second year for South Adelaide in the SANFL, Tom has played 8 games in the seniors this year for an average of 15 disposals and 5 rebound 50's per game. Tom has also been named in the bests twice so far this season.

TOM CAREY

After playing for the North Ballarat Roosters in the AFL Victoria Development League last year, Tom is playing for Lake Wendouree in the Ballarat Football League this season. In 4 senior games he has been named in the bests twice and has kicked 3 goals. On the weekend, he made his VFL senior debut for the North Ballarat Roosters and finished with 10 disposals.

KIERAN BRENNAN

Kieran is currently playing for the Southport Sharks seniors in the NEAFL Competition. He has played 4 games; averaging 8 disposals and 16 hits-outs per match. Kieran has also kicked 3 goals and has been named in the bests once. Additionally, Kieran has been called up to play 2 games for the Gold Coast Suns reserves (in the NEAFL) and has averaged 9 disposals and 23 hit-outs, while being listed among the bests once.

NICK RYAN

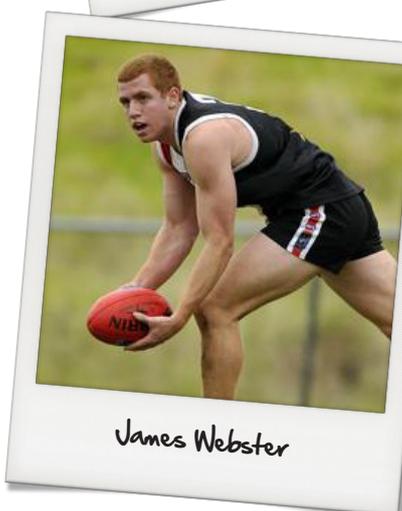
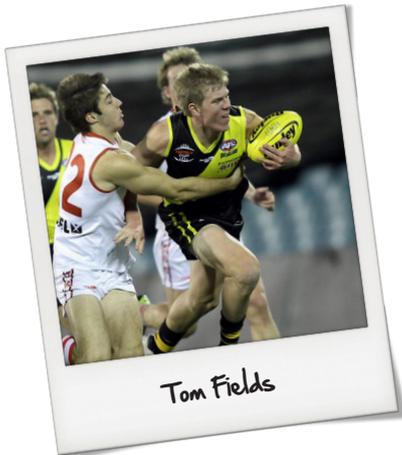
Playing in his 4th season for the St George Dragons in the AFL Sydney league; Nick has played 8 games for a return of 12 goals, including a bag of 4.

OLIVER TWEEDDALE

Unfortunately, Oliver missed the entire 2013 season with a knee reconstruction following his off-season move to the Port Adelaide Magpies. Oliver is now on the path to recovery and hoping to play again soon. The JHA would like to wish Ollie all the best with his rehab.

JAMES WEBSTER

Following a couple of years in the NEAFL playing for Redlands, the former Essendon Rookie returned home last year to play for his original club Terrigal Avoca in the Black Diamond Cup in central NSW. From a personal perspective, the move home was a raging success with James claiming the league's Best & Fairest medal. Unfortunately, his team went down in the Grand Final by 24 points. So far this season; James has been named among the bests in 5 of the 6 games he's played, including 3 BOG's. He has also kicked 7 goals.





ACADEMY REVIEW

2014 James Hird Academy Guard of Honour Game

Essendon's Round 7 clash against the Western Bulldogs at Etihad Stadium set the scene for the fourth annual James Hird Academy Guard of Honour Game.

The Guard of Honour Game has become a cherished and much-anticipated event on the club calendar and presents the opportunity to pay tribute to Essendon greats of the past, while also casting a keen eye to the future.

The chilly Saturday evening bore witness to a strong turn-out of former Bombers and their young families, who gathered in the Studio Room on the second level of Etihad Stadium for a catered pre-match function.

The room quickly transformed into an improvised playpen where little Bewicks, Danihers and Ramas ran free. Ex-teammates caught up over drinks with boisterous laughter and wry grins while their kids romped around in delight.

To celebrate Essendon's 'Don the Sash' campaign, the Baby Bombers of the James Hird Academy donned their father's old playing guernsey in an effort to honour The Sash through multiple generations. While Will Hamilton proudly wore his dad's woollen 1990 Grand Final jumper; young Noah Peverill disappeared within the folds of his father's silky post-millennium guernsey.

After welcoming speeches delivered by EFC's interim Chief Operating Officer, Xavier Campbell and JHA Head Coach, Marty Allison; the group of attendees began the long journey down into the bowels beneath Etihad Stadium.

Cherubic faces filled with the eager look of anticipation, as the procession of Baby Bombers and their parents filed up the race and streamed onto the ground.

The children were herded into place at either side of the Cheer Squad's towering red and black-bedecked banner, waiting for the current day custodians of The Sash to enter the arena. The Academy youngsters waved their flags with gusto as another son of a gun, Jobe Watson, led the senior team out onto the ground.

Rising star and inaugural JHA graduate, Joe Daniher, shared a special moment with his young cousins and uncle, Chris, before crashing through the banner with the rest of his teammates. Seeing the Daniher clan form a sizable section of the Guard of Honour appeared to inspire Joey, as the second-year rookie went on to notch up one of the most consistent performances of his fledgling career in the red and black.

The Bombers would go on to record their third win of the season, beating the Bulldogs by 8 points and the next generation of Baby Bombers went home with unforgettable memories of an incredible night at the footy.

The James Hird Academy would like to thank all parents, officials and volunteers for making this year's Guard of Honour Game another huge success. We look forward to seeing all of you again next season!

