

2014 NAB AFL U18 All Australian Team

Profiles by the AFL's Kevin Sheehan and Michael Ablett

Defenders:

Harrison Wigg

South Australia/North Adelaide/Broadview FC

179cm 74kg

14/10/1996

Small defender with elite left foot kick which helped set up his team on the rebound and from kick-ins. Reads the play exceptionally well averaging 18.8 disposals at 79.3% effectiveness and won SA's MVP capping off an outstanding championships.

Ed Vickers-Willis

Vic Metro/Sandringham Dragons/Melb Grammar

190cm 82kg

23/3/1996

Tall defender with excellent athleticism enabling him to play on the taller forwards. Makes good decisions defensively when spoiling and marking, as well as setting up the play from the back half. Had very consistent championships, averaging 16 disposals at 81.2% efficiency, 4.2 marks and 3.4 rebound 50s.

Josh McGuinness

Tasmania/Lauderdale FC

189cm 72kg

20/9/1995

Medium defender who reads the game exceptionally well, has sure hands and uses the ball neatly by hand and foot on the rebound, linking up consistently through the middle of the ground. Had impressive championships, averaging 26 disposals at 84.6% efficiency, 5 marks and 5.7 rebound 50s.

Darcy Tucker

Vic Country/North Ballarat Rebels/Horsham Saints

183cm 76kg

23/1/1997

Medium defender with excellent speed and rebound using his long left foot to advantage. Bottom aged player who excels one on one, tackles strongly and is a prolific ball winner. Averaged 20.7 disposals at 80.6% efficiency and 5 rebound 50s per game.

Caleb Marchbank

Vic Country/Murray Bushrangers/Benella Saints

193cm 85kg

7/12/1996

Very competitive tall defender with excellent mobility and repeat efforts. Anticipates well in coming off his man to support his defence and is strong overhead. Can also push forward and provide a marking target for his team. Averaging 13.5 disposals, 4 marks and 3 tackles.

Angus Brayshaw

Vic Metro/Sandringham Dragons/Hampdon FC

187cm 86kg

9/1/1996

Medium defender/midfielder who distributes the ball very effectively by either hand and on both feet. Clearances specialist who reads the game exceptionally well using his athleticism to get to and away from stoppages. Averaged 21.8 disposals, 5 Inside 50s and 4 tackles.

Midfield:

Paul Ahern

Vic Metro/Calder Cannons/Keilor FC

181cm 77kg

1/8/1996

Smooth moving midfielder with excellent balance and running capacity. Has an innate ability to make the difficult look easy. Is dangerous when he pushes forward and can kick long goals on the run. Has an excellent mix of speed and endurance and can play inside or outside. Averaged 17 disposals at 71.8% efficiency, 3 clearances and 1.4 goals per game.

Christian Petracca

Vic Metro/Eastern Ranges/Beverley Hills JFC

186cm 92kg

4/1/1996

Powerful inside midfielder/forward who is strong overhead and is a clearance star. Breaks tackles with his elite agility and tackles strongly. Vic Metro MVP and Larke Medallist. Kicking has become a real asset. Averaged 25 disposals, 5.4 marks and 5 clearances.

Billy Stretch

South Australia/Glenelg/Henley FC

181cm 70kg

8/9/1996

Medium midfielder with elite running capacity, using his speed and endurance to great effect. Generally uses the ball smoothly, has courage and is a consistent ball winner. Excellent leadership and football character. Averaged 17.7 disposals at 76.4% efficiency, four marks and eight handball receives.

Peter Wright

Vic Metro/Calder Cannons/Mooney Valley FC

203cm 102kg

8/9/1996

Ruckman/tall forward who is a long, accurate shot for goal and sound overhead mark. Mobile player who's ruckwork is impressive, using his height to advantage. Very good below his knees and has great running capacity. Averaged 11.6 disposals, 4.2 marks and 20.6 hit-outs per game in championships.

Isaac Heeney

NSW/ACT/Cardiff FC

186cm 82kg

5/5/1996

Hard edged medium midfielder who excels in the one on one and contested situations.

Very good clearance player averaging 5 per game together with 23.7 disposals at 73.2% efficiency and 4.7 tackles. Won Harrison Medal for best and fairest in division two.

Jake Johansen

South Australia/Port Magpies/Henley FC

171cm 63kg

13/6/1996

Small midfielder who captained SA to the championship title, showing great leadership capability and zest. Prolific ball winner and playmaker averaging 22 disposals (7.3 contested), 3.8 clearances and 4.7 Inside 50s. Finds space well and was a genuine spark for his team all championships

Forwards:

Callum Mills

NSW/ACT/North Shore

185cm 77kg

4/2/1997

Medium forward who is extremely strong and brave overhead and very good at gaining first possession at the stoppages. Bottom aged player who reads the game well, is versatile and uses the ball well by hand or foot. Won McLean Medal (Division 2) at AFL U16s in 2013. Averaged 21.3 disposals (9.3 contested) and 3.7 marks.

Darcy Moore

Vic Metro/Oakleigh Chargers/Kew Comets JFC

199cm 93kg

25/1/1996

Tall forward or defender with excellent closing speed and natural leap. Strong overhead mark and smart around goals, kicking four goals vs WA at Simonds Stadium in round five. Averaged 9.2 disposals and three marks in roles both forward and back.

Rhys Mathieson

Vic Country/Geelong Falcons/Bell Park FC

185cm 80kg

10/1/1997

Medium midfielder/forward who wins contested ball, has clean and quick hands and great courage in his attack on the ball. Strong overhead and won championships best and fairest in division one of the U16 championships in 2013. Averaged 21 disposals (10 contested) and six clearances in U18 championships as a bottom aged player.

Jayden Laverde

Vic Metro/Western Jets/PEGS

189cm 82kg

12/4/1996

Smooth moving medium forward/midfielder with a neat kick. Can turn opponents inside out with his agility and is dangerous around goals. Strong overhead and a difficult match up with athletic attributes in forward half or in midfield. Averaged 16.8 disposals at 74% efficiency and 5 marks.

Patrick McCartin

Vic Country/Geelong Falcons/St Josephs

193cm 95kg

19/4/1996

Tall forward who times his leads well and is a one grab player and strong overhead mark. Imposes himself on games and is dangerous around goals with accurate snaps or with his sound technique for set shots. Averaged four marks and 2.3 goals in the championships.

Caleb Daniel

South Australia/South Adelaide/Edwardstown

167cm 67kg

7/7/1996

Small forward/midfielder who set the game alight against Vic Country and Vic Metro in rounds five and six. Prolific ball winner and smart decision maker who not only kicked important goals but set up others. Elusive and strong in the contest. Averaged 20 disposals at 91.7% efficiency.

Interchange:

Connor Blakely

Western Australia/Swan Districts/Bunbury FC

186cm 81kg

2/3/1996

Medium midfielder who excels at stoppages and is a prolific ball winner. Runs all day using his impressive endurance base and has good speed. Averaged 21 disposals at 79% efficiency, seven clearances and 5.5 tackles.

Ben Keays

Queensland/Morningside FC

183cm 78kg

23/2/1997

Ball magnet with terrific work rate. Uses the ball with great efficiency on his preferred left foot. Can also push forward where he regularly impacts the scoreboard. Was QLD's MVP of the championships. Averaged 23 disposals at 81% efficiency, five tackles and 2.3 goals.

Darcy Parish

Vic Country/Geelong Falcons/Winchelsea

180cm 73kg

25/7/1997

Dashing medium midfielder with great feel for the game, courage and a good ball user. Bottom aged player, not turning 17 until later this month. Averaged 16.2 disposals, 3.6 inside 50s and 2.8 clearances in the championships.

Jack Steele

NSW/ACT/Belconnen

186cm 82kg

13/12/1995

Strong and powerful midfielder/forward that can create something out of nothing. Shows excellent poise and balance when in possessions and his a clever user by hand or foot. A

very effective lead up player that, once going can be hard to stop. NSW/ACT's MVP in the championships. Averaged 20.7 disposals at 79% efficiency, 5.7 marks and 2 goals.

Coach – Jason Saddington (NSW/ACT)

Assistant coach – Brenton Phillips (SA)

Selectors:

Kevin Sheehan, Mick Ablett, Brad Johnson (AFL), Rohan O'Brien (WCE), Dom Ambrogio (GCS), Jason Taylor (Melbourne), Stephen Wells (Geelong).