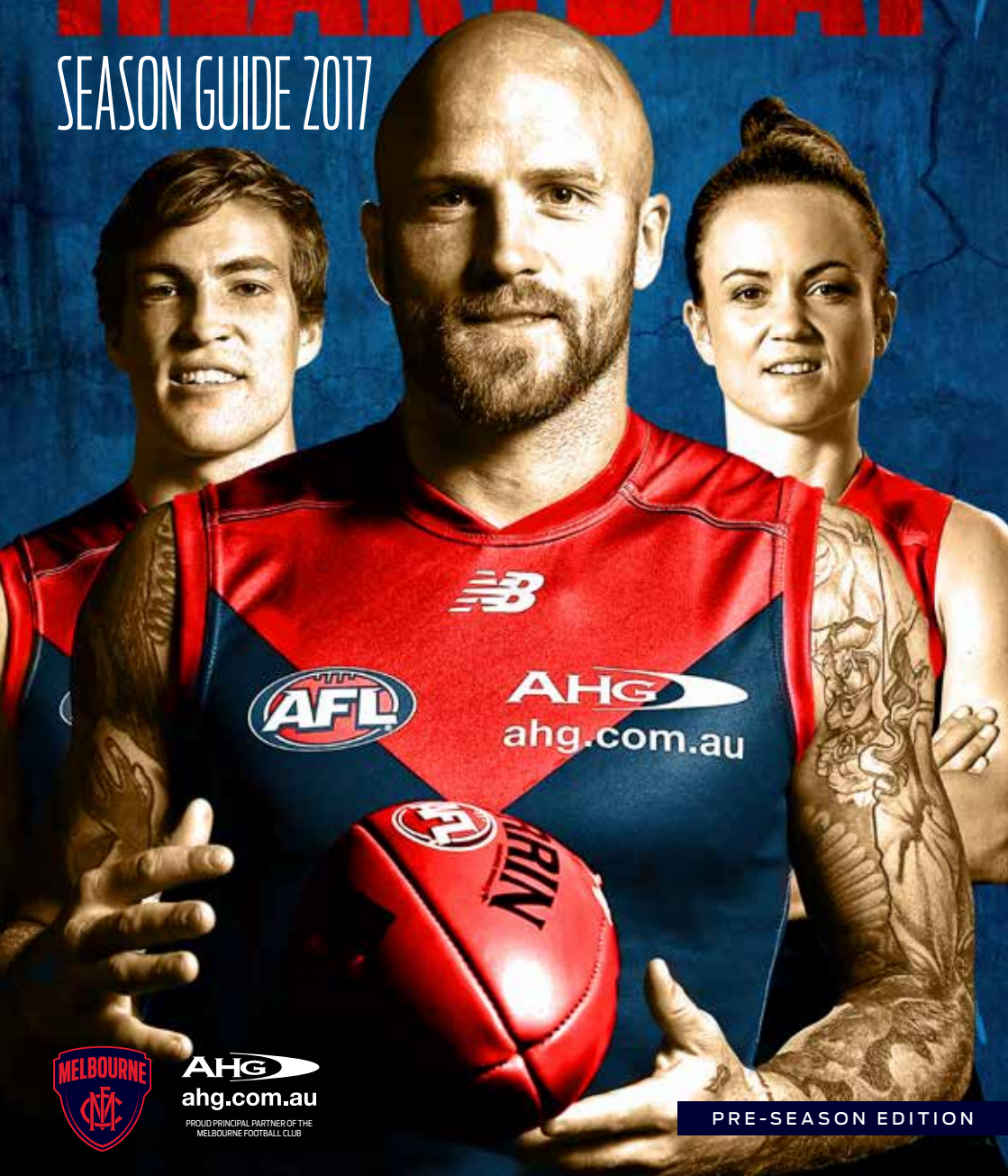


OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

# HEARTBEAT

SEASON GUIDE 2017



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# WATCH THE DEES ON A WARM WINTER NIGHT

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# SEASON PREVIEW 2017

BY MATT BURGAN



**C**AST your mind back to September 2013. Melbourne had come off its fifth worst VFL/AFL season, recording just two wins for the year. Drastic change was imminent. Soon, Paul Roos, one of the game's greatest names, was lured back into coaching.

The man who ended the longest premiership drought in the game – guiding the Sydney Swans to the 2005 premiership – returned on the proviso that he would coach Melbourne for two to three years, before handing it over to a successor. That turned out to be Simon Goodwin, the Adelaide great, who was anointed in September 2014.

As history showed, Roos coached Melbourne for three seasons, with Goodwin by his side for the two.

The succession plan, which was hatched, has now become a reality, with Goodwin set to lead Melbourne in 2017. It will be the 40 year old's first of at least three seasons at the club.

So what can the red and blue faithful expect under Goodwin in 2017? Well, after Roos did his job beautifully, settling the club and ensuring improvement was made each year, there is plenty of excitement around Melbourne.

The fact it was in finals contention with two rounds to go last year showed how far the squad had come during Roos' tenure. And now that Goodwin has the baton, he has taken his opportunity and run with it, leaving no stone unturned in his pursuit for sustained success.

He now has a talented list, capable of building something special, and an impressive coaching set-up, with the highly-respected Brendan McCartney, his right-hand man.

Goodwin is under no illusions that success won't be handed to the club, but he is bullish about what his squad can deliver this year and in the foreseeable future.

"I'm excited – you've got to be excited about the amount of talent we've got to work with, but also the people we've got involved at the footy club," he said.

"We've got an incredible bunch of coaches and support staff who are driving a talented playing group and with that, comes a level of excitement moving forward.

"We're looking forward to seeing how that comes out."

As is everyone associated with the red and blue – and much of the football fraternity, for that matter.

Given Roos oversaw the team from four wins (2014) to seven (2015) and ten (2016), there is every indication Melbourne can improve again and be right in the mix to play finals for the first time since 2006.

It would be a significant achievement, when you consider where Melbourne has been since 2007.

Despite having a talent base capable of pushing into September, it is still youthful and relatively inexperienced

in terms of matches. The reality is Melbourne sits 14th on the list for games played, entering 2017. It's these statistics that add some intrigue into the year.

The fact that Melbourne fielded the youngest team in 11 games last year only reinforces that it is still a young group, with plenty of scope for improvement.

And if you analyse Melbourne's 2017 list, it shows how many integral players are still emerging, in terms of games experience. Here is the breakdown:

0 games (10 players): Lochie Filipovic, Mitch Hannan, Liam Hulett, Dion Johnstone, Declan Keilty, Mitch King, Corey Maynard, Pat McKenna, Joel Smith, Tim Smith

1-25 (9): Jayden Hunt (19 games), Jay Kennedy-Harris (22), Oscar McDonald (17), Alex Neal-Bullen (15), Clayton Oliver (13), Christian Petracca (17), Josh Wagner (14), Sam Weideman (3) and Mitch White (3)

26-50 (9): Angus Brayshaw (31), Sam Frost (40), James Harmes (27), Jesse Hogan (41), Ben Kennedy (40), Christian Salem (30), Jake Spencer (36), Billy Stretch (27), Aaron vandenBerg (28)

51-75 (5): Max Gawn (61), Dean Kent (52), Cam Pedersen (61), Dom Tyson (71), Jack Viney (70)

76-100 (4): Tom Bugg (83), Michael Hibberd (84), Neville Jetta (94), Jack Trengove (84)

101-150 (5): Colin Garland (141), Jeff Garlett (146), Tom McDonald (104), Jake Melksham (114), Jack Watts (137)

151-200 (1): Bernie Vince (193)

200+ (2): Nathan Jones (223), Jordan Lewis (264)

In summary, when you consider the likes of Hunt, Oliver, Petracca, Brayshaw and Hogan have yet to play 50 games, and Gawn, Kent and Tyson are still to crack the ton, it only adds to the possibilities of where the club can go. Add the injection of Lewis, Hibberd and the return of Melksham to assist the likes of Tom McDonald, Bernie Vince and Nathan Jones and it only shows why there is plenty of optimism.

In many ways, 2017 is 'year four' for Melbourne, after it bottomed out at the end of 2013.

Clubs that have risen to the ultimate glory have rarely achieved it in a linear fashion, but they have got there by holding their nerve and sticking to a plan. So, it will be fascinating to see the next stage of Melbourne's development this year.

It really is a year of great anticipation for Melbourne – one that will be worth viewing.

Stay tuned.



# NEW HEIGHTS FOR JESSE HOGAN



**T**HE languid demeanour Jesse Hogan exhibits when he enters Melbourne's football department belies his competitive nature.

But not far beneath the cool detachment an intrinsic desire to win exists.

The quality drove him to kick 85 goals in 41 games for a team that has battled during most of his four years. It helped him overcome a back injury to win the NAB AFL Rising Star award in 2014.

It revealed itself in October when he committed to helping the Demons drive their way up the ladder for the next three seasons at least.

Having just turned 22, Hogan is now ready to move his heavily scrutinised career into its next phase.

"I probably want to go to the next level and be one of those real consistent key forwards," Hogan said.

"That is probably my biggest goal." How he does that will be fascinating for football watchers over the next decade.

He's gained some understanding of what lies ahead during the occasional chat with North Melbourne great Wayne Carey.

The conversations helped Hogan realise that once the standard is set, age doesn't really matter as the foundation is there to be built upon.

"Once you have produced good football that is your expectation," Hogan said.

"You can't have a few bad games and fall back on being young [as a reason]."

It's why Hogan doesn't use age or the constant focus on him as an excuse for his form slump at the end of last season, when he kicked just three goals in his final six games for the year.

Nor does he dance around the subject of poor body language, something he occasionally displayed

on-field during 2016, when the issue is raised.

"It's in the back of my mind. I never thought I had a massive issue with it [but] there were probably a few occasions where I went a bit over the top," Hogan said.

He accepted feedback from teammates who tell him how it is and coaches and was mature enough to accept he needed to learn how best to express that part of his temperament.

"I know when I go to watch live footy and you see a big forward and they are up and about they certainly carry a presence, whether they are grumpy or happy," Hogan said.

"Being one of the bigger players out there...if you are moping about it stands out."

Such a honest self-appraisal is healthy given Hogan has had to endure a fair share of outside advice in his time at the Demons.

His set shot kicking for goal is a topic anyone with a twitter handle or a microphone feels compelled to comment upon.

Hogan has a wry smile though, knowing he is doing all he can do to kick straight more often than not and that despite the hype he is not infallible.

"When I get outside 40 [metres] it becomes a bit of an issue. I haven't got the biggest leg for a key forward unfortunately [and] have to do a bit of a different thing to get a bit of extra distance," Hogan admits.

He is not attempting to refine his technique as much as steel his mind to the reality of life as a key forward, training himself to look ahead if he misses an easy set shot and get on with the next moment.

It's not the only part of his game that he thinks needs to go up a level.

"I want to feel more comfortable," Hogan said.

"I look around at the key forwards

and don't think I hold that presence quite yet."

Everyone however has seen glimpses of it and Hogan knows what it's like to stamp his imprint on a game.

But he suspects it's a feeling every player gets from time to time.

"There is nothing better than playing good footy," Hogan said.

Even his love for music and fondness of a trip down the coast when the surf is pounding does not elicit the same visceral response as playing the game well.

To that end he is working on being versatile enough to have the occasional burst in the midfield.

Even if he doesn't move up the ground during games, the opportunity to train in the midfield breaks up the occasional monotony of training that is a fact of life for every professional footballer.

He loves working on marking, a skill he refined testing himself against his older brother, Jake, as a teenager.

Only three players have taken more contested marks inside 50 during Hogan's first two seasons.

And he did so as part of an emerging team, one with so much talent on the list that Hogan's name now fades slightly into the background alongside Christian Petracca, Angus Brayshaw, Jack Viney, Christian Salem, Jayden Hunt and Sam Weideman.

"100 percent. There is talent all over the board," Hogan said.

And there is no doubt Hogan will do his best to help realise that talent with Goodwin's message firmly in his mind: "Be that competitor that you are in life with everything you do and bring that out and work on all the small things that will get you to that next level to be a really good footballer."

**BY PETER RYAN**



**MB: Firstly, how was your pre-season been after an injury-interrupted 2016?**

**AB:** The pre-season was good for me. I set it up by doing a lot of running with Jonesy (Nathan Jones), who is a champion – that held me in good stead. I came back in good shape and I've put on a lot of muscle. The pre-season camps were good – I took a lot out of them. Hopefully I can have a good year and not get knocked out two times in a row, and have a fair crack at it.

**MB: Your body shape has changed significantly. What have you done?**

**AB:** The first couple of years, you're trying to feel your way through and see what your body can and can't do. You learn little things about yourself and this year I've looked after myself. It's about maturing and knowing where I'm at. Some of the guys across the competition are absolute bulls in the midfield. I've got to be competing against that, so I've tried to get bigger and stronger, and that's happened this pre-season.

**MB: How much weight have you put on?**

**AB:** I've put on a couple of kilos of good muscle, but it's been good weight. I've run well, but I didn't want to put too much on because it slows you down. I hope I keep growing. My dad is 188cm and I've just ticked 188cm, so hopefully I've got a bit more left in me to knock him off.

**MB: How are you feeling entering 2017, after last year was marred by a knee injury and concussion setbacks?**

**AB:** I've taken a lot out of last year. Injuries are absolutely part of the AFL package, so they're going to happen. But I'm much more equipped to deal with setbacks now. After my first year, I had no setbacks and I was cruising along. I'm feeling good now and I'm confident about the year ahead. I don't want to be knocked out again, but I've been well looked after by the club.

**MB: You touched on the pre-Christmas camp earlier. What was it like?**

**AB:** I have an interesting perspective on it because my older brother, Will, is in the army. He's finished four years in officer training. He's just been deployed to Brisbane. He's 22 and in his fifth year. He's 18 months older than me. I found out what we were doing and I had a chat to him about it. He told me about a lot of things he'd done. I'd also heard a few rumours about the camp and it sounded comparable, so I asked him for little hints, tips and tricks. Despite being told about it, you can't prepare for it. You don't know what it's going to be like until you get out there and do it. My inside information did absolutely nothing for me. I had to battle through it, like everyone else. Mentally what we got out of it, I think will be unbelievable. We've gone through that together and we can draw on that whenever we're against

adversity. I don't think there is anything on this planet harder than what we did over those three days. What we went through was unbelievable and we'll take plenty out of it. Hopefully it's the springboard that will take us through the year – and we'll never have to do one again. It was a unique experience.

**MB: How often has that camp been drawn on so far?**

**AB:** A lot of the lessons we learned throughout it have absolutely been applied in different bits and pieces. There was a bit of mental scarring for a few weeks afterwards – I'd wake up in the middle of the night in a startled way. I thought the instructors were going to get their hands on us again and make us do something crazy. I know a few of the other guys felt the same too. No one will forget it anytime soon. The instructors use it when their lives are on the line – but we're in a less high-risk environment, even though the principles still apply in terms of discipline, teamwork and commitment to the cause. We'll use it day to day for the rest of the season.

**MB: It would've been interesting talking about it with your brother afterwards.**

**AB:** It was. It's very comparable and not identical, but the stuff we were doing was very similar. The guys who run the program, they're mostly army guys, so everything my older brother's done and is doing – he knows it. It's unbelievable – I reckon those camps would take years off your life doing them regularly. I won't be joining the army any time soon – I'll stick to footy.

**MB: That's good to hear for Melbourne supporters.**

**AB:** (Laughing) Don't worry, I'll be staying here and playing footy.

**MB: What are your personal aims for 2017?**

**AB:** I've got some catching up to do after an ordinary year last year. But the work that I've put in over the pre-season will hold me in good stead. If I can stay out on the field this year, then I'll have a good year.

**MB: And finally, what are your expectations of the team?**

**AB:** It's interesting. We all want to succeed. Without looking too far ahead, the development that's happened over the pre-season – you can see the group taking steps in the right direction every day. Hopefully that translates into the season. If we keep heading in the direction we are, then success is going to be right around the corner. Hopefully the team and my individual progress will track together and we'll have a good year. The last three years we've improved each year with wins, so hopefully this will be the year where we take off. I'm very excited and I think everyone is – it's a good time to be a Melbourne player and supporter.

I don't think there is anything on this planet harder than what we did over that three days. What we went through was unbelievable and we'll take plenty out of it.

ANGUS BRAYSHAW



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BRAYSHAW

SET TO BOUNCE BACK - WITH MATT BURGAN



# SAVE THE DATE 2017

## PINK LADY BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Join us as we celebrate our ongoing partnership with Breast Cancer Network Australia over breakfast at the MCG.



## PINK LADY MATCH

ROUND 7, SUNDAY, 7 MAY



### PINK LADY MATCH

Help us turn the MCG pink at our annual match to support Breast Cancer Network Australia.

## HEARTLAND OPEN TRAINING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Meet your favourite players at our annual open training session in Melbourne's traditional Heartland. Venue TBC.



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## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY BLOCKBUSTER

ROUND 12, MONDAY, JUNE 12



### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY MATCH

Don't miss our annual Queen's Birthday blockbuster clash against Collingwood at the MCG. The Big Freeze at the 'G returns as we support the Cure for MND Foundation in the pursuit to find a cure for Motor Neurone Disease.



## CELEBRATING MELBOURNE'S DIVERSITY

ROUND 15, FRIDAY, JUNE 30



### CELEBRATING MELBOURNE'S DIVERSITY

An inclusive event for Melbourne's dynamic and vibrant multicultural community to come together and celebrate the cultural heritage and identity of the city.

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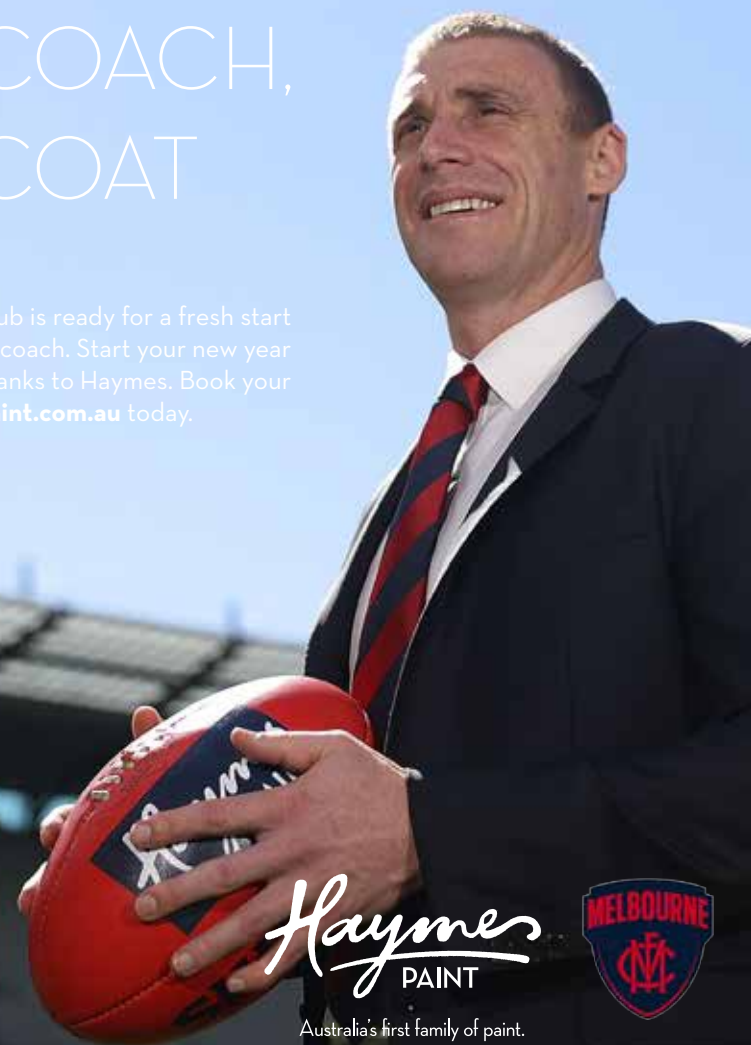
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# 2017 AFL FIXTURE



ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT	HOME/ AWAY	VENUE	LOCAL TIME
1	SATURDAY, MARCH 25	ST KILDA	AWAY	ETIHAD STADIUM	4.35PM
2	SUNDAY, APRIL 2	CARLTON	HOME	MCG	3.20PM
3	SATURDAY, APRIL 8	GEE LONG CATS	AWAY	ETIHAD STADIUM	4.35PM
4	SATURDAY, APRIL 15	FREMANTLE	HOME	MCG	1.45PM
5	MONDAY, APRIL 24	RICHMOND	AWAY*	MCG	7.25PM
6	SUNDAY, APRIL 30	ESSENDON	AWAY	ETIHAD STADIUM	1.10PM
7	SUNDAY, MAY 7	HAWTHORN	HOME	MCG	3.20PM
8	SATURDAY, MAY 13	ADELAIDE CROWS	AWAY	ADELAIDE OVAL	7.10PM
9	SUNDAY, MAY 21	NORTH MELBOURNE	HOME	MCG	3.20PM
10	SATURDAY, MAY 27	GOLD COAST SUNS	HOME	TIO TRAEGER PARK	4.05PM
11	BYE				
12	MONDAY, JUNE 12	COLLINGWOOD	HOME	MCG	3.20PM
13	SUNDAY, JUNE 18	WESTERN BULLDOGS	AWAY	ETIHAD STADIUM	3.20PM
14	SATURDAY, JUNE 24	WEST COAST EAGLES	AWAY	DOMAIN STADIUM	5.40PM
15	FRIDAY, JUNE 30	SYDNEY SWANS	HOME	MCG	7.50PM
16	SUNDAY, JULY 9	CARLTON	AWAY*	MCG	3.20PM
17	SATURDAY, JULY 15	ADELAIDE CROWS	HOME	TIO STADIUM	7.10PM
18	SATURDAY, JULY 22	PORT ADELAIDE	HOME	MCG	2.10PM
19	SATURDAY, JULY 29	NORTH MELBOURNE	AWAY	BLUNDSTONE ARENA	1.45PM
20	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5	GWS GIANTS	AWAY	MANUKA OVAL	1.45PM
21	SUNDAY, AUGUST 13	ST KILDA	HOME	MCG	1.10PM
22	SUNDAY, AUGUST 20	BRISBANE LIONS	HOME	MCG	1.10PM
23	TBC	COLLINGWOOD	AWAY	MCG	TBC

\*Replacement home game. Reserved seat entitlements do not apply.



# 2017 VFL FIXTURE



ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT	HOME/ AWAY	VENUE	LOCAL TIME
1	MONDAY, APRIL 17	WILLIAMSTOWN	AWAY	BURBANK OVAL	2.00PM
2	SATURDAY, APRIL 22	NORTH BALLARAT	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
3	SATURDAY, APRIL 29	GEE LONG	AWAY	SIMONDS STADIUM	2.40PM*
4	SUNDAY, MAY 7	WERRIBEE	AWAY	HOGANS RESERVE - HOPPERS CROSSING	2.00PM
5	SUNDAY, MAY 14	NORTHERN BLUES	AWAY	PRESTON CITY OVAL	2.00PM
6	SATURDAY, MAY 20	PORT MELBOURNE	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
7	SUNDAY, JUNE 4	COBURG	AWAY	PIRANHA PARK	2.00PM
8	SATURDAY, JUNE 10	COLLINGWOOD	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	2.10PM*
9	SATURDAY, JUNE 17	FOOTSCRAY	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
10	SATURDAY, JUNE 24	BOX HILL HAWKS	AWAY	BOX HILL CITY OVAL	2.10PM*
11	SATURDAY, JULY 1	PORT MELBOURNE	AWAY	NORTH PORT OVAL	2.00PM
12	SATURDAY, JULY 8	RICHMOND	AWAY	HOLM PARK - BEACONSFIELD	1.00PM
13	BYE				
14	SATURDAY, JULY 22	ESSENDON	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
15	SUNDAY, JULY 30	COBURG	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	2.00PM
16	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5	SANDRINGHAM	AWAY	TREVOR BARKER OVAL	2.00PM
17	SATURDAY, AUGUST 12	NORTHERN BLUES	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
18	SATURDAY, AUGUST 19	WILLIAMSTOWN	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM
19	SATURDAY, AUGUST 26	WERRIBEE	HOME	CASEY FIELDS	7.00PM

\*Channel 7 broadcast game.





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Melbourne Football Club's  
Next Generation Academy**

The aim of Melbourne Football Club's Next Generation Academy is to encourage, develop and enhance participation outcomes for talented players, with an additional focus of creating more opportunities for Multicultural and Indigenous participants.

As part of our Next Generation Academy, we are holding two Come & Try days for 11-15 year old girls from our allocated zones (Casey/Dandenong/ Mornington Peninsula).

**NGA - GIRLS' OPEN DAYS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

9:30am to 12pm - Shepley Oval, Pultney St, Dandenong

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

9:30am to 12pm - Casey Fields Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne East

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ENTRY**

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## 2017 NAB AFL WOMEN'S COMPETITION

# ROAD TO ROUND 1

THE ROAD TO ROUND ONE OF THE 2017 NAB AFL WOMEN'S COMPETITION WAS PAVED WITH A NUMBER OF HISTORIC MILESTONES FOR THE 27 PLAYERS PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE RED AND BLUE THIS SEASON

### INDUCTION & RING PRESENTATION



All 27 players on Melbourne's list received a ring in recognition of their recruitment to the club at a special in-house induction at the MCG. Marquee player Daisy Pearce said the rings would be "a reminder [to players] that they've been a part of something really big and special." Melbourne plans to make it a tradition that every time a new women's player is drafted or recruited to the club they will gain a ring.

### FIRST TRAINING SESSION



At the end of November, Melbourne's inaugural AFL Women's team trained together for the first time at Gosch's Paddock. Women's Football Operations Manager Debbie Lee, one of the greats of women's football, said she was impressed by the team's first hit-out. "There was a lot of nervous energy, but 10 to 15 minutes into the training session they were playing footy and it was really good to see," she said.

### PRE-SEASON CAMP



Before the Christmas break, Melbourne held a pre-season camp at Barwon Heads, combining training with a range of team bonding and group activities.

### LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



In January, Melbourne unveiled its leadership group for the inaugural NAB AFL Women's season, with Daisy Pearce appointed captain and Melissa Hickey and Elise O'Dea named vice-captains.

### JUMPER PRESENTATION



History was made at the MCG when Melbourne held its first AFL Women's Jumper Presentation. Players were presented with their jumpers by seven-time world surfing champion Layne Beachley and men's co-captain Nathan Jones. Beachley said she was excited to finally see the NAB AFL Women's Competition become a reality. "These girls are trailblazers and pioneers and they're changing the face of sport," she said.

### ROUND 1



On Sunday, February 5 Melbourne took to the field for the first time when it met the Brisbane Lions in round one of the NAB AFL Women's Competition at Casey Fields. In wet and wild conditions, including a pause in play caused by lightning late in the second quarter, Melbourne fought bravely in front of a home crowd of 6,500 before Brisbane eventually took control of the game to win 4.1 (25) to Melbourne's 1.4 (10). Jasmine Grierson created history when she kicked Melbourne's first-ever goal in the second quarter.

### MARQUEE PLAYER SPONSORS

**Daisy Pearce:** Anthony Micallef and NSW Demons | **Melissa Hickey:** Arts Series Hotel Group and JFE Global







# KAREN PAXMAN

## MY FOOTBALL JOURNEY

*Now I'm working at Melbourne – it's incredible to think how it's all happened and it's far different from my previous career in the police force. Having the AFLW come in at this stage of my life has been a great shift. I love it.*

**KAREN PAXMAN**

**M**Y FOOTBALL journey is perhaps a little different to the other girls I play with at Melbourne.

I didn't have a dream to play at the highest level – I never really pictured that women's footy would go in that direction. I always played footy with my friends, but it was more of a social thing for me.

I've always been competitive in sport – I played netball until I was 15 years old – but I always loved to have a kick of the footy. I could always kick the footy – I don't remember being taught – but I could always do it.

I became friends with my PE teacher at high school and she played for a women's team at Lalor Bloods. She nagged me for a couple of months to come to training. I was initially intimidated, because I was 15, but I eventually made the transition.

I was playing netball at the time, but I also got encouragement from my mum and dad to try anything – they would drive me to training. When I told them about the footy, they were all for it. Once I started playing, I loved it.

It was another world. The girls were friendly and it was a fun environment to be in. I played a couple of games in my first season and then the next year I dropped netball – footy was No.1 from that point.

I played in a premiership with Lalor in 2005, which I still think is the best game I've ever been part of. That first flag was memorable. I ended

up leaving Lalor a couple of years later and then played for Heidelberg, before it unfortunately folded.

From there, I played a couple of seasons at St Albans and then moved to Darebin.

In 2013, I was selected at No.6 in the first official AFL Women's Draft by the Bulldogs. I played every exhibition game for the Bulldogs, except the last one in 2016.

It was an enjoyable time at the Bulldogs, but becoming a priority pick and then playing for Melbourne has smashed all expectations. Knowing Melbourne has been one of the frontrunners in women's footy makes it special.

Pre-season was the hardest I've ever done, but it's also been the quickest bonding I've ever done – and it's been fantastic.

The first game against the Brisbane Lions – I tried to treat it like any other, but you knew there was a lot more buzz. It was mind blowing, even though we lost.

But the following week, winning our first AFLW match against Collingwood was an amazing experience. Apart from my first Grand Final win, it was the best win I've ever been involved in.

Now I'm working at Melbourne – it's incredible to think how it's all happened and it's far different from my previous career in the police force. Having the AFLW come in at this stage of my life has been a great shift. I love it.



# 2017 COACH PROFILES

by Matt Burgan



**TROY CHAPLIN** SPONSOR: McKern Steel  
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

The former key defender joined Melbourne after retiring at the end of the 2016 season, playing 215 AFL matches from 2004-16. Chaplin represented Port Adelaide in 140 games from 2004-12 and made 75 appearances for Richmond from 2013-16.



**CRAIG JENNINGS** GAME ANALYST AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jennings was appointed game analyst and education coordinator in September 2015. A former North Melbourne under 19s player, Jennings spent 10 years at Essendon, having worked closely with Simon Goodwin and Brendan McCartney at Essendon. In 2015, he spent the season as opposition analyst under Luke Beveridge at the Western Bulldogs.



**MATTHEW EGAN** SPONSOR: Howard McDonald  
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT

Egan was appointed head of development in September 2016, after earning a reputation as a highly-respected coaching member with the Bombers. The former Essendon interim senior coach – he guided the Dons in the last three rounds of the 2015 season – Egan was an outstanding key defender in a brief career, cut short by a debilitating foot injury. Egan played 59 matches for the Cats from 2005-07 and was named All-Australian in 2007. Egan was a development coach with Geelong from 2009-11. He was then an assistant coach with the Bombers from 2012-15 and head of development and VFL coach in 2016.



**MAX ROOKE** DEVELOPMENT COACH

Two-time Geelong premiership player Max Rooke was appointed in November 2016. Rooke, who was also a development coach with the Gold Coast Suns in 2016, played 135 matches for Geelong, including its 2007 and 2009 premierships, from 2002-10. At the end of the 2011 season, Rooke was appointed to Geelong's coaching panel and spent 2012-15 in a development role with the Cats.



**JUSTIN PLAPP** CASEY DEMONS HEAD COACH AND DEVELOPMENT COACH

Plapp played 44 AFL matches from 1998-2002, including 18 for Richmond from 1998-99 and 26 with St Kilda from 2000-02. In 2008, Plapp became captain-coach of the Burnie Dockers. He was assistant coach with Box Hill Hawks in 2010 and Williamstown in 2011, before coaching the Sandringham Dragons from 2012-14. Plapp became senior coach of Casey Scorpions in 2015 and guided the club to the finals. In 2016, Plapp coached Casey to the minor premiership, before it lost the Grand Final to Footscray.



**MICHAEL STINEAR** WOMEN'S SENIOR COACH AND DEVELOPMENT COACH

Stinear was appointed in September 2016. A small defender/midfielder in his playing days, Stinear was vice-captain of the 2002 under-18 Vic Metro team and then on Carlton's rookie list in 2003. In 2004, he won the Grogan Medal with Mt Gravatt – the Brownlow Medal equivalent in the AFLQ. He spent 2011-16 as an administrator/coach with Oakleigh Chargers, and coached them to back-to-back flags in 2014-15 and to the preliminary final in 2016.



**SIMON GOODWIN** SENIOR COACH

Enters first year as senior coach after being appointed Paul Roos' successor in September 2014. Goodwin will coach the club until at least the end of the 2019 season. A superstar with Adelaide, Goodwin played 275 matches from 1997-2010 and was a dual premiership player in 1997-98 and captain from 2008-10. From 2011-14, Goodwin was an assistant coach with Essendon, coaching one game in round 23, 2013. A defender-turned-midfielder, Goodwin became one of the AFL's best players of the modern era. A five-time All-Australian in 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2009, Goodwin won the Malcolm Blight Medal – Adelaide's best and fairest award – in 2000 and 2005-06.



**BRENDAN MCCARTNEY** SPONSOR: Chris Sleight  
PLAYER/COACH PERFORMANCE MANAGER

Regarded as one of the game's best development coaches, McCartney joined Melbourne, after coaching the Western Bulldogs from 2012-14. He coached Ocean Grove to four successive premierships from 1994-97, before becoming an assistant/development coach with Richmond from 1998-99. From 2000-10, McCartney was an assistant coach during Mark Thompson's coaching tenure at Geelong, which included the 2007 and 2009 flags. In 2010, McCartney was named AFLCA's assistant coach of the year and he joined Essendon's coaching panel for 2011. McCartney's time at the Bulldogs was acknowledged by many after they won the 2016 premiership.



**JADE RAWLINGS** SPONSOR: Anthony Micallef  
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Now in his sixth season with Melbourne, Rawlings was previously interim senior coach at Richmond, coaching the final 11 games of the 2009 season. During his time at Punt Rd, he was senior coach of the Coburg Tigers. Rawlings then spent two seasons with the Brisbane Lions before joining Melbourne. In 2016, he was accepted into the second intake of the AFL coaching accreditation course, level four program. Rawlings played 148 AFL matches, including 116 for Hawthorn from 1996-2003, 29 for the Western Bulldogs from 2004-05 and three for North Melbourne in 2006.



**BEN MATHEWS** SPONSOR: Peter Lawrence  
STOPPAGES/CONTEST COACH

Now in his fourth season with Melbourne, Mathews was a member of the Sydney Swans' 2005 premiership under Paul Roos. After 198 matches and 45 goals for the Swans from 1997-2008, Mathews became a development coach with Gold Coast Suns in 2012, before he joined Melbourne.





# 2017 PLAYER PROFILES

*Simon Goodwin provides an update on every player on Melbourne's senior and rookie lists*

## NATHAN JONES

2

**Senior coach Simon Goodwin says:** Nathan continues to improve – we've seen him improve many aspects over the pre-season, including areas within our game style and his individual game. We see him being quite versatile in the positions that he can play, which is a great thing for the footy team.

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 20/01/1988  
**Height:** 180cm  
**Weight:** 87kg  
**AFL debut:** 2006  
**AFL games:** 223  
**AFL goals:** 105  
**Recruited:** Mt Eliza (VIC), Dandenong Stingrays (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2005 NAB AFL Draft (No.12)  
**Honours:** Co-captain 2014, 2017, Captain 2015-16, Best & fairest 2012, 2013, 2014, Second Best & Fairest 2007, 2016, NAB AFL Rising Star Nominee 2006, 2007

### SPONSORS

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Cold Rock Caroline Springs  
**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Barbara Box & Leanne Diez  
**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Toby Dundas



## JACK VINEY

7

**Goodwin says:** He had an interrupted start to his pre-season with a hip operation. Jack got back into full training just before Christmas and hasn't missed a beat since. He plays the game exactly the way we want it played and continues to improve as a leader and has great standing in the playing group.

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 13/04/1994  
**Height:** 178cm  
**Weight:** 86kg  
**AFL debut:** 2013  
**AFL games:** 70  
**AFL goals:** 19  
**Recruited:** Ashburton (VIC), Carey Grammar (VIC), Oakleigh Chargers (VIC), Casey Scorpions (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2012 NAB AFL Draft (No.26 – father/son)  
**Honours:** Co-captain 2017, Best & Fairest 2016, Second Best & Fairest 2015, NAB AFL Rising Star Nominee 2013

### SPONSORS

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
John, Janella, Lucy & Katrina Hodgson  
**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Roland Communications Pty Ltd  
**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Chisholm & Gamon



## JESSE HOGAN

1

**Goodwin says:** Hogen has really changed his body shape. He looks strong and powerful, and has worked really hard on some of his day-to-day habits. He's really improved in a number of areas. Jesse is a pretty special player and we're looking forward to seeing him play this year.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Jan Pallpratt & Patricia Wing Jan

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Bernie & Lorraine Holttschke

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Sue Leng Culbert

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 12/02/1995  
**Height:** 195cm  
**Weight:** 100kg  
**AFL debut:** 2015  
**AFL games:** 41  
**AFL goals:** 85  
**Recruited:** Marist (WA), Claremont (WA)  
**Drafted:** 2012 GWS Giants Trade Incentive Rule Selection, 17-year-old access (No.2)  
**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star 2015, Melbourne leading goalkicker 2015, 2016



## CHRISTIAN SALEM

3

**Goodwin says:** He missed a lot of footy last year and only played eight AFL games. He oozes class, with everything he does on the field. We'll continue to work with Christian and his ability to play through the midfield and down back. He's really stepped up his work rate, his ability to cover the ground and his training habits. We're looking to seeing Christian play a lot of footy this year.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Club Assist

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
The Burgess Family - Horizon Supply Pty Ltd

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Dr Simon Permezel

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 15/07/1995  
**Height:** 183cm  
**Weight:** 83kg  
**AFL debut:** 2014  
**AFL games:** 30  
**AFL goals:** 8  
**Recruited:** Hampton Rovers (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2013 NAB AFL Draft (No.9)





4



## JACK WATTS

**Goodwin says:** After a breakout year, we're continuing to work with Jack on his game, including the habits that helped him become a really good player in 2016. The challenge for Jack is the consistency in his game and being able to continue to do the things required for the team all of the time. I've got confidence in Jack's ability to be able to do that. We'll continue to work with him, as he's an important player for the team.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Ian McKenzie  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Nick Brockbank  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Croydon Sports Injury Clinic

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 26/03/1991  
**Height:** 196cm  
**Weight:** 93kg  
**AFL debut:** 2009  
**AFL games:** 137  
**AFL goals:** 121  
**Recruited:** East Sandringham (VIC), Brighton Grammar (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2008 NAB AFL Draft (No.1)

9



## JACK TRENGOVE

**Goodwin says:** It was a tough year for Jack last year, as he didn't have much of a pre-season, but he still managed to return to AFL footy, after almost two years out of the game with a foot injury. He's had a full pre-season, and continues to work on areas of his game and his body to get himself to positions to play AFL footy on a regular basis. This year is exciting for Jack because he's had the full summer. We're looking forward to seeing what the real Jack Trengove can do.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Williams Family  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Trident Business Group  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Blair and Rosemary Fry

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 02/09/1991  
**Height:** 185cm  
**Weight:** 88kg  
**AFL debut:** 2010  
**AFL games:** 84  
**AFL goals:** 39  
**Recruited:** Kybybolite (SA), Sturt (SA)  
**Drafted:** 2009 NAB AFL Draft (No.2)  
**Honours:** Co-Captain 2012, 2013, International Rules Series 2011, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2010

5



## CHRISTIAN PETRACCA

**Goodwin says:** Christian really improved at the backend of the summer. He's worked really hard on his fundamentals, around the game style and what we want him to do – both defensively and offensively. His improvement defensively has shone through and that's ultimately going to help his offense. He's got some genuine talent and he's a special player, so he's an exciting prospect.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Trucks Nuts  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Emily & Pam Haddrell  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Doug Derham

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 04/01/1996  
**Height:** 186cm  
**Weight:** 94kg  
**AFL debut:** yet to debut  
**AFL games:** 17  
**AFL goals:** 12  
**Recruited:** Beverley Hills (VIC), Eastern Ranges (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Draft (No. 2)  
**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2016

10



## ANGUS BRAYSHAW

**Goodwin says:** Gus has made some significant changes since the middle of last year. He's developed some really good working habits around his training and day-to-day preparation. That's starting to come through in his training. We're looking forward to a highly-talented player having a pretty successful year. He's done a lot of things right over the summer.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Sleigh Family  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Barry Fisher  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Di Conza Family

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 09/01/1996  
**Height:** 187cm  
**Weight:** 90kg  
**AFL debut:** 2015  
**AFL games:** 31  
**AFL goals:** 12  
**Recruited:** Hampton Rovers (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Draft (No.3)  
**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star Nominee 2015 (fifth overall)

6



## JORDAN LEWIS

**Goodwin says:** Jordan has been able to get through a lot of training. He's brought leadership to the group and some great direction. Jordan's also a good link between the coaching staff and players. He seems really driven to be part of something successful at the Melbourne Football Club.

**Gold Player Sponsor** The Barlow Family  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Josh Hoppe & Daniel Moon  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Total Surveying

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 24/04/1986  
**Height:** 186cm  
**Weight:** 85kg  
**AFL debut:** 2005  
**AFL games:** 264  
**AFL goals:** 145  
**Recruited:** Warrnambool (Vic)/ Geelong U18/Hawthorn  
**Drafted:** 2004 NAB AFL Draft 1st round selection (Hawthorn) No. 7 overall, 2016 NAB AFL Draft traded by Hawthorn for No. 47, No. 53.  
**Honours:** Hawthorn Best & Fairest 2014, 2nd Hawthorn Best & Fairest 2016; All-Australian 2014, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2005, Hawthorn premiership sides 2008, 2013, 2014, 2015.

11



## MAX GAWN

**Goodwin says:** I can see a real determination with Max, after he had a real breakout season last year. He's developing as a leader and he feels comfortable where he sits in the group. The amount of training he's done for a big guy and the work he's done this pre-season has been significant. He still has the determination to improve and I think we've got a pretty special big man in our hands.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Necole & Tony Gawne  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Jack, Marcus & Andrew Chrapot  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Merlin, Sugar & Jacqui Parry @ Support Demons Business

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 30/12/1991  
**Height:** 208cm  
**Weight:** 111kg  
**AFL debut:** 2011  
**AFL games:** 61  
**AFL goals:** 34  
**Recruited:** Ormond (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2009 NAB AFL Draft (No.34)  
**Honours:** 3rd Best & Fairest 2016, All-Australian 2016



12



## DOM TYSON

**Goodwin says:** Dom had a fantastic pre-Christmas, before his camp mishap with his knee in late December. Still, he came back from that and is set to have a really big season. He has really worked hard on his fitness and fundamentals and his stoppage craft.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Old T Dees

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Bill Harries

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Celtic Connection

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 08/06/1993

**Height:** 186cm

**Weight:** 86kg

**AFL debut:** 2012

**MFC debut:** 2014

**AFL games:** 71

**AFL goals:** 37

**Recruited:** Camberwell (VIC), Trinity Grammar (VIC), Oakleigh Chargers (VIC), GWS Giants

**Drafted:** 2011 NAB AFL Draft (No.3), 2013 NAB AFL Draft traded by GWS Giants

**Honours:** Second Best & Fairest 2014, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2012

15



## BILLY STRETCH

**Goodwin says:** His improvement in the contested ball side of his game, and his craft is incredible. I can't speak highly enough of his work habits from a day-to-day perspective. He's a leader in his own way and he continues to drive the group with the work habits he has.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
GlezerLanteri Family Lawyers & Genius Tech Group

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
William Lyall

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Scott and Steven Jacobs

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 08/09/1996

**Height:** 180cm

**Weight:** 80kg

**AFL debut:** 2015

**AFL games:** 27

**AFL goals:** 5

**Recruited:** Henly Sharks (SA), Glenelg (SA)

**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Draft (No.42 – father/son)

13



## CLAYTON OLIVER

**Goodwin says:** He's completely changed his body shape. He looks like a really exciting, powerful midfielder. Clayton's developing some really good habits from his day-to-day preparation, and the way he goes about his training, which is a significant shift.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
DEES NATION

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
The Barlow Family

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Justin Bourke, Jack Tracey & Anthony Rodbard-Bear

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 22/07/1997

**Height:** 187cm

**Weight:** 87kg

**AFL debut:** 2016

**AFL games:** 13

**AFL goals:** 6

**Recruited:** Mooropna (VIC), Bendigo Pioneers (VIC), Murray Bushrangers (VIC)

**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Draft (No.4)

**Honours:** Morrish Medal 2015, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2016

16



## DEAN KENT

**Goodwin says:** Dean had some back niggles throughout the summer, which hasn't been ideal, because we know how important he is to our forward half. We're confident that he'll get enough work into him to be a contributor for us in the season ahead.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
SUPER 16

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Jeremy Ashley & Andrew Fisher

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Western Demons

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 24/02/1994

**Height:** 179cm

**Weight:** 85kg

**AFL debut:** 2013

**AFL games:** 52

**AFL goals:** 49

**Recruited:** Federals (WA), Perth (WA)

**Drafted:** 2012 NAB AFL Draft (No.48)

14



## MICHAEL HIBBERD

**Goodwin says:** We got him to the footy club for a reason – he's a competitor. He loves to really jump at the footy in our defensive half and provides good run-and-carry off our half-back line. He's had a really good summer and has fitted in extremely well. He brings a bit of character to the locker room, so I'm looking forward to seeing him in the red and blue.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Geoffrey Hart Dental

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Emily & Pam Haddrell

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Steve Bell

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 03/01/1990

**Height:** 186cm

**Weight:** 90kg

**AFL debut:** 2011

**AFL games:** 84

**AFL goals:** 11

**Recruited:** Somerville (VIC)/Dandenong U18/Frankston (VFL)/Essendon

**Drafted:** 2011 NAB AFL Pre-Season Draft 1st round selection (Essendon) No. 4 overall, 2016 NAB AFL Draft traded by Essendon for No. 31, No. 63

17



## SAM FROST

**Goodwin says:** Sam made the shift down back last year and continues to work on his craft and fundamentals in that area of the ground. He's developing those areas of his game to be the player that can play on tall and small. Sam's heading in the right direction.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Stephen Bell

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Di Conza Family

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Tom Schreurs

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 28/08/1993

**Height:** 194cm

**Weight:** 94kg

**AFL debut:** 2012

**MFC debut:** 2015

**AFL games:** 40

**AFL goals:** 7

**Recruited:** Ormond (VIC), Wesley College (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC), GWS Giants

**Drafted:** 2012 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.1); 2012 NAB AFL Draft rookie elevation (No.83), 2014 NAB AFL Draft traded by GWS Giants



18

# JAKE MELKSHAM

**Goodwin says:** After missing last season, Jake's come in and hasn't missed a beat. He's been able to handle some really good loads from a training perspective. We see him being able to play a variety of positions – wing, half-back and through the midfield.

## Gold Player Sponsor

The Barlow Family

## Silver Player Sponsor

Julie O'Halloran & Jan Lupson

## Bronze Player Sponsor

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## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 29/08/1991

**Height:** 186cm

**Weight:** 82kg

**AFL debut:** 2010

**AFL games:** 114

**AFL goals:** 57

**Recruited:** Oak Park (Vic)/PEGS (Vic)/Calder U18/Essendon

**Drafted:** 2009 NAB AFL Draft 1st round selection (Essendon) No.10 overall, 2015 NAB AFL Draft traded by Essendon for No. 30

**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2010

21

# CAMERON PEDERSEN

**Goodwin says:** Cam's lost 11kgs and got himself in a position now where he can really compete and do the workload required to be an AFL player. The challenge for Cam will be for him to continue to do that over a sustained period of time.

## Gold Player Sponsor

Judy Gillard, Ian Murton, Chris & Donna Turner

## Silver Player Sponsor

Ralph & Roberta Laurie

## Bronze Player Sponsor

Mike Sargent

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 17/03/1987

**Height:** 193cm

**Weight:** 99kg

**AFL debut:** 2011

**MFC debut:** 2013

**AFL games:** 61

**AFL goals:** 51

**Recruited:** Mooroolbark (VIC), Box Hill Hawks (VIC), North Melbourne

**Drafted:** 2011 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.17 – North Melbourne), 2011 NAB AFL Draft rookie elevation (North Melbourne), 2012 NAB AFL Draft traded by North Melbourne

19

# MITCH HANNAN

**Goodwin says:** Mitch had a shoulder reconstruction when he arrived and has rehabbed extremely well. He has some pretty special speed and athleticism and we're pretty excited about what Mitch can offer.

## Gold Player Sponsor

Bob Jane T-Marts Essendon

## Silver Player Sponsor

Darien & Rob Thompson

## Bronze Player Sponsor

Trevena, Croatto, Southey

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 09/03/1994

**Height:** 189cm

**Weight:** 81kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Gisborne Rookies

(Vic)/St Bernard's (Vic)/Footscray (VFL)

**Drafted:** 2016 NAB AFL Draft 3rd round selection, (Melbourne) No. 46 overall

22

# AARON VANDENBERG

**Goodwin says:** Aaron is just a really powerful player. He has some physical attributes that really helps our forward line. Aaron continues to work really hard on his fundamentals – his kicking and his disposal – and we've seen some significant improvements with him. He's an incredible on-field communicator and quite demanding on our playing group, which is exciting. He's also well-respected among our playing group.

## Gold Player Sponsor

Bernie & Lorraine Holtschke

## Silver Player Sponsor

Scott Lipman

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 03/03/1992

**Height:** 188cm

**Weight:** 90kg

**AFL games:** 2015

**AFL goals:** 28

**AFL goals:** 17

**Recruited:** Tathra (NSW), Ainslie (ACT)

**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.2), 2015 NAB AFL Draft rookie elevation

20

# COLIN GARLAND

**Goodwin says:** Col had a disappointing season last year and came back to pre-season with a fresh start – and has trained to a really high level. He's an experienced player who clearly understands what we need from him to play in the team. He's working really hard to be able to do that and get back to playing senior AFL footy.

## Gold Player Sponsor

Toorak Village Dental Clinic

## Silver Player Sponsor

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## Bronze Player Sponsor

Ian Dunstan (Kalgoorlie, WA)

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 28/04/1988

**Height:** 191cm

**Weight:** 92kg

**AFL debut:** 2007

**AFL games:** 141

**AFL goals:** 16

**Recruited:** North Hobart (TAS), Tassie Mariners (TAS), Tasmania VFL (TAS)

**Drafted:** 2006 NAB AFL Draft (No.46)

**Honours:** Second Best & Fairest 2013, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2008

23

# BERNIE VINCE

**Goodwin says:** He's done a full pre-season and he keeps telling me that he's getting better with age. Bernie is doing things in his game that we want him to do – and we're seeing improvement in him, which is exciting for us. There are some things that we want all of our players to continue to strive and improve, and Bernie typifies that.

## Gold Player Sponsor

John McCully

## Silver Player Sponsor

Ian Sunderland & Peter Ashton

## Bronze Player Sponsor

Ian & David Jackson

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 02/10/1985

**Height:** 186cm

**Weight:** 89kg

**AFL debut:** 2006

**MFC debut:** 2014

**AFL games:** 193

**AFL goals:** 110

**Recruited:** CMS Crows (SA), Woodville-West Torrens (SA), Adelaide

**Drafted:** 2005 NAB AFL Draft (No.32 – Adelaide), 2013 NAB AFL Draft traded by Adelaide

**Honours:** Adelaide Best & Fairest 2009, Melbourne Best & Fairest 2015, Melbourne Third Best & Fairest 2014, International Rules Series 2011, Michael Tuck Medal 2012, Adelaide pre-season premiership side 2012



24



## JAY KENNEDY-HARRIS

**Goodwin says:** Jay had a horrid season last year with hamstring injuries. We've spent some time with Jay over the summer to really build his body to handle the demands of the AFL season. He performed really well in the backend of pre-season, which is exciting for Jay and the footy club. We look forward to watching his progress after missing a lot of footy last year.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Celtic Connection  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Gail Lutton & Marg Monk  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Brian Lovelock

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 21/03/1995  
**Height:** 173cm  
**Weight:** 75kg  
**AFL debut:** 2014  
**AFL games:** 22  
**AFL goals:** 11  
**Recruited:** Kew Comets (VIC), Oakleigh Chargers (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2013 NAB AFL Draft (No.40)

27



## LIAM HULETT

**Goodwin says:** Liam continues to develop. He's had a good summer after playing in the Casey finals series last year. We're looking forward to Liam developing the habits that we need from him day in, day out and train with an intensity that resembles AFL footy. He's improving every week.

**Silver Player Sponsor** Steve Johnson

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 17/03/1997  
**Height:** 193cm  
**Weight:** 91kg  
**AFL debut:** yet to debut  
**AFL games:** 0  
**AFL goals:** 0  
**Recruited:** Bonbeach (VIC), Dandenong Stingrays (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Draft (No.46)

25



## TOM MCDONALD

**Goodwin says:** He continues to improve his leadership. He's got a great understanding of what the team requires. At the same time, he's improving the fundamentals for the positions we want him to play. He's a big part of developing our younger players going forward.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Chisholm & Garmon  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Mark Davis  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Be Energized Myotherapy

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 18/09/1992  
**Height:** 194cm  
**Weight:** 101kg  
**AFL debut:** 2011  
**AFL games:** 104  
**AFL goals:** 8  
**Recruited:** Edenhope-Apsley (VIC), North Ballarat Rebels (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2010 NAB AFL Draft (No.53)  
**Honours:** Third Best & Fairest 2012, 2015, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2012

28



## OSCAR MCDONALD

**Goodwin says:** Oscar just oozes leadership, with the way he goes about his business on a day-to-day basis, which is really exciting. He prepares extremely well and he trains to a high level every session. For a player of his age to be able to play that way has been really exciting for the club.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Victorian Fireplaces  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Warrington Family  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Roslyn, Morgan, Camille & Ian Wright

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 18/03/1996  
**Height:** 196cm  
**Weight:** 97kg  
**AFL debut:** 2015  
**AFL games:** 17  
**AFL goals:** 0  
**Recruited:** Edenhope-Apsley (VIC), North Ballarat Rebels (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Draft (No. 53), NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2016

26



## SAM WEIDEMAN

**Goodwin says:** He's put on five or six kilos. He probably struggled initially to carry that weight around at training, but his last month to six weeks have been outstanding. He's training with an intensity that resembles an AFL player. We're excited for him to keep working with Jesse Hogan and the other forwards to develop great chemistry.

**Gold Player Sponsor** Glenn Ashworth  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Andrew Clough  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Louise & Robert Christie

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 26/06/1997  
**Height:** 195cm  
**Weight:** 94kg  
**AFL debut:** yet to debut  
**AFL games:** 3  
**AFL goals:** 3  
**Recruited:** Vermont (VIC), Xavier College (VIC), Eastern Ranges (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Draft (No.9)

29



## JAYDEN HUNT

**Goodwin says:** Jayden is a really exciting prospect, with his ability to run-and-carry. He typifies exactly what we want in our players – in terms of his ability to train to a high level and prepare himself to a high standard. He continues to improve every session.

**Gold Player Sponsor** The Funston Family  
**Silver Player Sponsor** Demonland  
**Bronze Player Sponsor** Sam Crisci

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 03/04/1995  
**Height:** 187cm  
**Weight:** 85kg  
**AFL debut:** 2016  
**AFL games:** 19  
**AFL goals:** 3  
**Recruited:** East Sandringham (VIC), Brighton Grammar (VIC), Sandringham Dragons (VIC)  
**Drafted:** 2013 NAB AFL Draft (No.57)



30



## ALEX NEAL-BULLEN

**Goodwin says:** Alex has had a fantastic pre-season. His last pre-season, he probably drifted a bit through the summer and it affected his season. But this pre-season he came with real purpose and focus. He's changed his body shape and is training to a really high level. Alex plays the game the way we'd like it to be played, so we see an exciting year ahead for him.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Perkins Family

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Jan Armstrong & Matt Ware

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
SA DEMONS

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 09/01/1996  
**Height:** 182cm  
**Weight:** 82kg  
**AFL debut:** 2015  
**AFL games:** 15  
**AFL goals:** 8  
**Recruited:** Plympton (SA), Glenelg (SA)  
**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Draft (No. 40)

34



## MITCH KING

**Goodwin says:** Mitch has come back from a knee reconstruction. He has built his body and put on a lot of weight to be able to play in the ruck. The key for Mitch is to keep working on his fundamentals for the position that he plays. His attitude has been outstanding.

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Diane Mountney

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 01/01/1997  
**Height:** 200cm  
**Weight:** 99kg  
**AFL games:** 0  
**AFL goals:** 0  
**Recruited:** Wodonga (Vic)/Murray U18  
**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Draft 3rd round selection (Melbourne) No. 42 overall

32



## TOMAS BUGG

**Goodwin says:** Tom's worked really hard on a couple of specific things within his game that he knew he had to work on from last year. He's come to training every day to do that and he's surrounded himself with some really good mentors within the footy club. It's starting to come through in his training. He's significantly improved throughout the summer.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Casey Demons Supporter Group

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Mark & David Freilich

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
The Tragics

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 05/04/1993  
**Height:** 184cm  
**Weight:** 82kg  
**AFL debut:** 2012  
**MFC debut:** 2016  
**AFL games:** 83  
**AFL goals:** 23  
**Recruited:** Gembrook (VIC), Caulfield Grammar (VIC), Gippsland Power (VIC), GWS Giants  
**Drafted:** 2011 17-year-old access selection (GWS Giants), 2015 NAB AFL Draft traded by GWS Giants  
**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2012

35



## BEN KENNEDY

**Goodwin says:** Ben's got a good understanding now of the things that he needs to continually improve. He's working hard with a variety of coaches to be able to do that. Ben probably hit a bit of a flat spot towards the backend of last year, but he's reset for the year ahead. He's now very clear of what it's going to take to get back playing senior AFL footy.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Edmond Lobazza

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Jamie Davis family & Elliot Swart family

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Big Footy Demons

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 03/03/1994  
**Height:** 175cm  
**Weight:** 78kg  
**AFL debut:** 2013  
**MFC debut:** 2016  
**AFL games:** 40  
**AFL goals:** 28  
**Recruited:** Brighton District (SA), Glenelg (SA), Collingwood  
**Drafted:** 2012 NAB AFL Draft (No.19), 2015 NAB AFL Draft traded by Collingwood

33



## JAKE SPENCER

**Goodwin says:** Jake has been able to get through a really big chunk of the pre-season, which is great for him. He's pushed Max Gawn over the summer, but they have also worked really closely together. I've seen Jake improve in a whole range of areas, so we now feel as though we've got two really competitive big men at our disposal, which is important. We really want Jake to keep pushing for his spot to play AFL footy.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Graham & Val Peters

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Kaye Hargreaves & Julie Lockhart

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 09/10/1989  
**Height:** 203cm  
**Weight:** 105kg  
**AFL debut:** 2009  
**AFL games:** 36  
**AFL goals:** 6  
**Recruited:** Hermit Park (QLD), Redland (QLD)  
**Drafted:** 2008 NAB Rookie Draft (No.35), 2010 NAB AFL Draft rookie elevation (No.96)

36



## JEFF GARLETT

**Goodwin says:** Jeff's physical condition has improved out of sight. His running has gone to another level. We want to develop a forward line that can put a lot of pressure on the opposition and Jeff is an important part of that. He understands his role and responsibility within that group. He's on the right path.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Di Conza Family

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Total Surveying

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Sebastian Leopold

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 03/08/1989  
**Height:** 180cm  
**Weight:** 73kg  
**AFL debut:** 2009  
**MFC debut:** 2015  
**AFL games:** 146  
**AFL goals:** 252  
**Drafted:** 2009 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.6), 2010 NAB AFL Rookie Draft elevation (No.85), 2014 NAB AFL Draft traded by Carlton  
**Honours:** Carlton leading goalkicker 2013, NAB AFL Rising Star nominee 2010



37



## DION JOHNSTONE

**Goodwin says:** Dion's competitiveness has really shone through at training since he arrived at the club last November. He loves the contested side of the game and brings an edge to our forward line. Dion's really settled into the club well.

### Silver Player Sponsor Bronze Player Sponsor

Ruth Fleming & Micky Ashton

Stephen Lewinsky

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 01/06/1998

**Height:** 179cm

**Weight:** 77kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** North Warrnambool (Vic)/Oakleigh U18

**Drafted:** 2016 NAB AFL Draft 4th round selection (Melbourne) No. 64 overall

40



## PAT MCKENNA

**Goodwin says:** Pat came from GWS and has worked really hard at developing physically, so he can handle the demands of AFL footy. He's continued to improve his game around what we really value, in terms of the contested side of the game, so we look forward to that unfolding as the year progresses.

### Gold Player Sponsor

Allan Sultan

### Silver Player Sponsor

Rodney Brown

### Bronze Player Sponsor

Membership Volunteers Group

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 12/08/1996

**Height:** 186cm

**Weight:** 85kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Gisborne (Vic)/GWS Giants List

**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Draft 2nd round selection (GWS Giants) No. 23 overall; 2016 NAB AFL Draft traded by GWS Giants for 3rd round selection (not utilised), 4th round selection (not utilised)

38



## TIM SMITH

**Goodwin says:** A mature-age player from Casey, Tim is a real competitor who can play forward and bring that tackling pressure to our forward half. With that, he can certainly kick a bag of goals as well, so he's settled in really well. He's got a fantastic attitude and is working closely with the other tall forwards to develop a really strong chemistry down there.

### Gold Player Sponsor

Alan & Patricia White

### Silver Player Sponsor

Yvonne Preston

### Bronze Player Sponsor

John Rothfield



## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 20/02/1991

**Height:** 192cm

**Weight:** 94kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Upper Ferntree Gully (Vic)/Casey (VFL)

**Drafted:** 2017 Rookie Draft selection (Melbourne) No. 25

41



## MITCH WHITE

**Goodwin says:** He's had an outstanding pre-season. Mitch rolled his ankle on the Sunshine Coast pre-season camp, which set him back a few weeks, but he's someone who continues to improve and we look forward to seeing him develop over the next 12 months.

### Gold Player Sponsor

Nams Industries



## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 10/04/1996

**Height:** 188cm

**Weight:** 88kg

**AFL debut:** 2015

**AFL games:** 3

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Seaford (VIC), St. Peter's College (VIC), Dandenong Stingrays (VIC)

**Drafted:** 2015 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.20)

39



## NEVILLE JETTA

**Goodwin says:** Neville's just a quality human being with great work habits. He's really driven to perform and improve his game, both defensively and offensively. Nev understands that he's in a really competitive area with a range of players, so he's just looking for ways to improve. He's had a good summer.

### Gold Player Sponsor

Micallef Family

### Silver Player Sponsor

Craig Thompson & Darcy Thompson

### Bronze Player Sponsor

Gail & Peter Vermont, Dylan Roberts

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 12/02/1990

**Height:** 180cm

**Weight:** 81kg

**AFL debut:** 2009

**AFL games:** 94

**AFL goals:** 21

**Recruited:** Carey Park (WA), Swan Districts (WA)

**Drafted:** 2008 NAB AFL Draft (No.51), 2014 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.50), 2014 NAB AFL Draft rookie elevation

42



## JOSH WAGNER

**Goodwin says:** He plays defensively and the way we want the game to be played. For a large chunk of the pre-season, Josh was one of our best at training. We see a really bright future for Josh with the way he's progressing.

### Gold Player Sponsor

Christopher Iacopine

### Silver Player Sponsor

Demonland

### Bronze Player Sponsor

Queensland Demons

## PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 24/06/1994

**Height:** 189cm

**Weight:** 85kg

**AFL debut:** 2016

**AFL games:** 14

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Aspley (QLD)

**Drafted:** 2016 NAB AFL Rookie Draft (No.6)



43



## JAMES HARMES

**Goodwin says:** James is likely to spend more time up forward this year, with some time in the midfield. He's had a really good summer and he continues to get better at understanding the game and what's required within his role. He's a really likeable member of the group.

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Secura Funds LTD

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Theo & Lisa Schreurs

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
NSW Demons

### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 05/10/1995

**Height:** 185cm

**Weight:** 85kg

**AFL debut:** 2015

**AFL games:** 27

**AFL goals:** 15

**Recruited:** Devon Meadows (VIC),  
Dandenong Stingrays (VIC)

**Drafted:** 2014 NAB AFL Rookie  
Draft (No.2), 2015 NAB AFL Draft  
rookie elevation

**Honours:** NAB AFL Rising Star  
nominee 2016

47



## LOCHIE FILIPOVIC

**Goodwin says:** Lochie is very raw, having come to the club after playing 40 games of footy. We're really focusing on his fundamentals and his body to be able to play the ruck. He's put on some kilos, but his willingness to learn has been impressive.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Lawrie O'Shea

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Gary Pinchen



### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 29/08/1998

**Height:** 200cm

**Weight:** 92kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Ormond (VIC)/  
Sandringham U18

**Drafted:** 2017 Rookie Draft  
selection (Melbourne) No. 8

44



## JOEL SMITH

**Goodwin says:** He's a really exciting young player off half-back. He does some pretty exciting things and continues to work on making sure his body can handle the demands of AFL footy. If he can do that, expect him to play some AFL footy this year.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
Tim & Mary Anne  
Holland

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
Mark Rochman &  
Andrew Chrapot

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Lone Star



### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 25/02/1996

**Height:** 191cm

**Weight:** 87kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Maribymong Park (Vic)

**Drafted:** 2016 Rookie Draft  
three-year non-registered  
selection (Melbourne) No. 41

48



## COREY MAYNARD

**Goodwin says:** Having come from a basketball background, Corey was pretty raw to the game when he came into the group towards the end of last season, but I think he typifies what our program is about. His improvement throughout the summer and what's required – not only for his role, but for how we want the game played – has been very good. His improvement, particularly his fundamentals, have also been a great reflection of the people involved in our football department.

**Gold Player Sponsor**  
David Rose

**Silver Player Sponsor**  
The Corey Connection



### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 07/10/1991

**Height:** 185cm

**Weight:** 91kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Hampton Rovers (Vic)

**Drafted:** 2017 Rookie Draft three-  
year non-registered selection  
(Melbourne)

45



## DECLAN KEILTY

**Goodwin says:** Declan has settled into the club well. He's come from Casey, so he's got a good understanding of the way we play. Declan keeps working on the fundamentals to play the positions that we're looking for him to play.

**Bronze Player Sponsor**  
Deevas + Demen



### PLAYER STATS

**DOB:** 08/05/1995

**Height:** 194cm

**Weight:** 93kg

**AFL games:** 0

**AFL goals:** 0

**Recruited:** Newborough Hawks  
(Vic)/Casey (VFL)

**Drafted:** 2017 Rookie Draft  
selection (Melbourne) No. 41

  
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# MY MELBOURNE

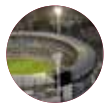
with **MICHAEL HIBBERD**

TOP 5 THINGS  
I LOVE ABOUT  
MELBOURNE



## The Rosstown Hotel

It's in Carnegie. The best pub going around!



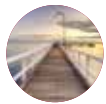
## The MCG

I love the atmosphere of the MCG. It's the best stadium in the world.



## @ The Catch: Fish & Chips

Good food and it's close to home, so it's convenient.



## Port Melbourne

I lived in Port Melbourne for years and love the place and the beaches.



## Home

What I like about Melbourne in general is the good food everywhere and that there is always something to do and things to see, but I also enjoy just kicking back and relaxing at home in my lounge room.



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