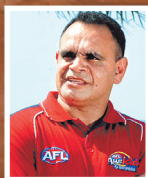


Inform



MVP FLASHBACK

WAYNE CAREY AND LEIGH MATTHEWS COLLECT
THEIR MVP AWARDS - FULL REPORT P7



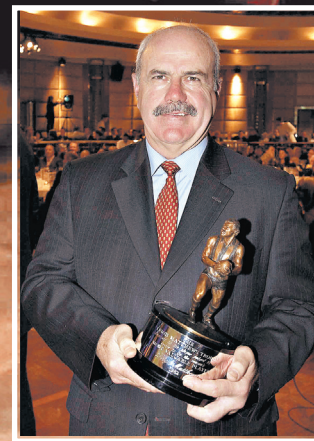
LONG GONE

Dons star returns to his roots - P3



GUIDING HAND

Troy helps out young players - P9



Main pictures: Sam D'Agostino, SDP Photo

INTRODUCTION



Brendon Gale
AFLPA CEO

“Our game goes from strength to strength with record level attendances across Australia and TV ratings’ as buoyant as ever”

Game's in great shape

It's a cliché sure, but it has been a big few weeks in football. But rather than dwell on some of the negative stories that some of our friends in the media seem more interested in, I thought I'd put down a couple more positive thoughts. Firstly, our game goes from strength to strength with record level attendances across Australia and TV ratings as buoyant as ever. There's no doubt the game is in terrific shape and for this the AFL should be commended.

In light of these excellent results and in recognition of the work players are doing in developing and promoting our game, the AFLPA has been able to secure a 3 per cent increase (an extra \$189,000 per club) in Total Player Payments (TPP) for season 2006 - a great result for all players.

We also recognise the contribution past players have made to our game. The AFLPA recently celebrated the achievements of some of our former greats by holding a retrospective Most Valuable Player function. We were proud to have the man the MVP trophy is named after, Leigh Matthews, attend the func-

tion as guest of honour, along with a decorated list of former AFLPA MVP's including Terry Daniher, Russell Greene, Greg Williams, Paul Roos, Gerard Healy, Tim Watson, Darren Millane, Jason Dunstall, Wayne Carey, Corey McKernan, Robert Harvey and Shane Crawford. Check out pages 6-7 of this edition of Inform for some fantastic pictures from what was a great night.

The AFLPA was also pleased to announce the establishment of a Past Player Health Hardship Fund. The level of support the AFLPA has received from current players for this initiative has been overwhelming. The commitment shown by players is a great example of how current players acknowledge and respect the groundbreaking work of past VFL/AFL players. The AFLPA via the players expects to raise approximately \$2 million over the next three years. In 2006, players will contribute 0.25% of TPP, which will equate to about \$250,000. For season 2007 the percentage contributed will increase to 0.5% and in season 2008 a full 1.0% of TPP. AFL players remain rightly proud of

the many contributions they make, be they charity based or otherwise. Finally, I'm sure many players would have read, seen and watched much informed and ill-informed comment on the WADA issue. The AFLPA has serious concerns regarding aspects of the WADA Code, and these concerns are shared by a number of independent legal, medical and health professionals and academics. Not surprisingly the AFLPA was opposed to the imposition of the WADA Code. To its credit the AFL also resisted WADA and stood by its drug-testing regime and the players. This was despite overwhelming public and political pressure. As you are aware the AFL finally relented and indicated its intention to become WADA compliant by 1 November 2005. The AFLPA is currently in discussions with the AFL in order to ascertain what that will mean for players, and what impact that will have on the existing Illicit Drug Policy.

As we head towards the finals series of what's been another immensely successful year for AFL football, I wish all players the best of luck and success.

AFL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Contacts

Phone: (03) 9328 8001
Fax: (03) 9328 8995
Web: www.aflpa.com.au
Email: info@aflpa.com.au

Player benefits, AFLPA retirement account

John Hogan
johnhogan@aflpa.com.au

Legal services

Bernie Shidders
bernie_shidders@aflpa.com.au

Education, player development & career transition

Lisa Milling
lisa@aflpa.com.au

Media & publications

Jason Murnane
jasonmurnane@aflpa.com.au

Reception & administration

Jess Fairchild
jess@aflpa.com.au

General football & agent queries

Matt Finnis
mattfinnis@aflpa.com.au

Administration

Kim Gregg
kim@aflpa.com.au

Licensing & Marketing

Sarah Mitchell
Sarah@aflpa.com.au

Executive

President

Peter Bell (Fremantle)

Vice-President

Nathan Buckley (Collingwood)

Brett Burton (Adelaide)

Tom Harley (Geelong)

Adam Goodes (Sydney)

Glenn Archer (Kangaroos)

Darryl Wakelin (Port Adelaide)

Joel Bowden (Richmond)

Alistair Nicholson (Melbourne)

Simon Garlick (Past player, Western Bulldogs, Sydney)

Club delegates

Ken McGregor (Adelaide)

Luke Power (Brisbane)

Ian Prendergast (Carlton)

James Clement (Collingwood)

Mark Bolton (Essendon)

Shaun McManus (Fremantle)

Charlie Gardiner (Geelong)

Nick Holland (Hawthorn)

Cameron Bruce (Melbourne)

Leigh Colbert (Kangaroos)

Brendon Lade (Port Adelaide)

Wayne Campbell (Richmond)

Justin Peckett (St Kilda)

Jared Crouch (Sydney)

Rohan Smith (Bulldogs)

Drew Banfield (West Coast)

SADFAREWELL

Longy returns to his roots

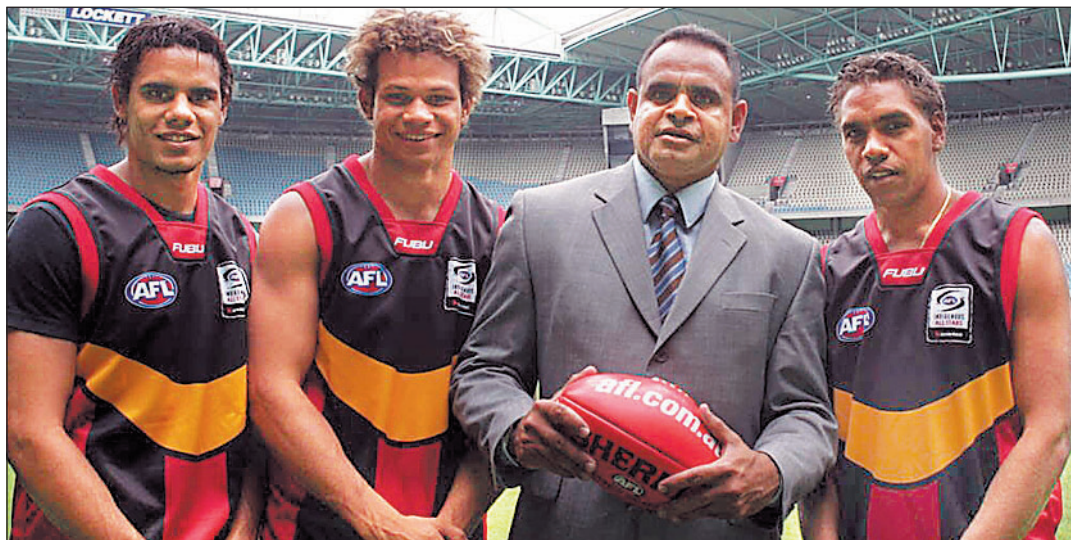
In the end, as always, it was all about family. After 16 years in Melbourne, Michael Long is going home. Michael, wife Lesley and kids Jake and Michaela are packing up and heading back to the Territory. Michael's journey from the St Mary's Football Club in Darwin to powerhouse AFL club Essendon has come full circle.

At season's end, Michael and family will leave behind the trappings and the microscope of footy in Melbourne, to go home so his young family can grow up close to cousins, uncles and extended family.

Michael played 190 games for Essendon between 1989 and 2001, and won two premierships (1993 and 2000), receiving the Norm Smith Medal in 1993 from childhood hero Maurice Rioli.

Michael was also named on the wing in the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century.

Most recently, Michael served as



Daniel Wells, Daniel Motlop, Michael Long and Andrew Krakouer

the AFLPA/AFL Indigenous Programs Manager, mentoring Indigenous players. Michael was also a driving force behind the creation and operation of the AFLPA's bi-annual Indigenous Camp. The AFLPA will shortly announce a replacement in the

Indigenous Programs area.

As a respected leader within the Aboriginal community, Michael's recent "Long Walk" from Melbourne to Canberra to meet with Prime Minister John Howard to discuss indigenous issues captured the imagination of many

Australian's. Michael will continue to call on Australians to embrace indigenous communities and cultures.

As Michael said recently, "my long walk was the start of the journey, but the journey for all Australia has only just begun."

WADA: where to from here

As this edition of Inform Magazine goes to print, the AFLPA is considering its response to the AFL's recent decision to accede to Federal Government pressure and adopt a "WADA compliant" anti-doping code. The implications of this decision for AFL players are significant and will be the subject of detailed discussion and education in future forums and publications when arrangements are finalised later this year.

Two major issues remain to be resolved in the next few months which will shape the AFL's drug policies in the years ahead.

The first involves the precise nature of the drug testing regime to be implemented under the new WADA compliant code. Whilst WADA requires sporting bodies to adopt strict rules in relation to the treatment of positive test

results, there is a lot of flexibility available for the AFL to develop its own approach to drug testing in and out of competition.

One of the ironies of the entire anti-doping issue is that the AFL could halve the number of drug tests it conducts each year and still be WADA compliant. Yet if it varies the penalties to be imposed for a positive test to a non-performance enhancing substance such as marijuana - it is deemed non-compliant and judged to be "soft on drugs". The second major issue to be resolved involves the future of the AFL's recently adopted Illicit Drugs Policy ("IDP"). The IDP is currently inconsistent with the WADA Code in that it prescribes counseling and rehabilitation for players recording initial positive tests for marijuana on game day. The IDP was developed by the

AFL and AFLPA in 2004 and cannot be amended without the consent of both parties. As such, the AFLPA has the right to effectively terminate the IDP following the AFL's WADA back-flip.

Some players have expressed the view that the AFL should not be allowed to introduce a WADA compliant doping policy, as well as continue to implement the IDP - a combined approach that arguably subjects AFL players to the most rigorous drug testing and penalty regime in the world.

However other players have indicated that the health and safety concerns which formed the basis of developing the IDP have not changed, and as such we should not "throw the baby out with the bath water" so to speak.

The AFL Medical Officers have suggested that the prospect of a player testing positive to a

banned substance on game day may actually be reduced by the maintenance of the existing IDP.

It has also been suggested that if the IDP is to remain, it should be purely rehabilitative in nature, and current match suspensions for third-time offences be removed altogether. All of these different perspectives have advantages and disadvantages. The challenge for the AFLPA is to negotiate an outcome which responsibly addresses this significant issue in the best interests of its membership as a whole. The AFLPA, in conjunction with Executive members and Club Delegates will continue to assess player views on this matter over the next few months. In the interim, players are encouraged to convey their thoughts via their club delegate or to the AFLPA.

Matt Finnis AFLPA Manager, Player Relations

CAREERADVICE

Making your mark after football

The Next Goal Career Transition Program is a joint AFLPA/AFL SportsReady initiative designed to assist players move into a new career post AFL football.

Designed for those player's in the second half of their career or those recently retired from the game, the program is managed by former Richmond and Port Adelaide player Chris Naish.

Chris works closely with participants and potential employers, matching the player's interests and aptitude to suitable work areas and placements.

Since the program's inception in 2002, 106 players have been accepted into the Program with 52 of these players successfully completing their placement.

Of these players, 29 have been offered full-time employment with 23 of these players accepting full time positions. Of the remaining 26 players, eighteen of these accepted part time employment.

Round three 2005 inductees of the innovative program include:

Guy Rigoni (Melbourne) in the earthmoving industry with William Adams/Caterpillar.

Daryl White (Brisbane) working with AFL Queensland in game development.

Roger Hayden (Fremantle) community development.



Moving ahead Guy Rigoni forging a career in earthmoving

John Baird (Kangaroos) property development with Alexander Robinson Real Estate.

Nathan Carroll (Melbourne) sales representative with Tooheys.

Stephen Powell (Bulldogs, Melbourne & St Kilda) finance with Deutsche Bank.

Cameron Bruce (Melbourne) with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Cameron Mooney (Kangaroos & Geelong) with the Country Fire Authority.

Simon Prestigiacom (Collingwood) sport & recreation;

Shane Woewodin (Melbourne & Collingwood) property development, Andrews Real Estate

Andrew Williams (West Coast & Collingwood) sport & recreation

Marc Dragicevic (Richmond) Radio & advertising with MIX FM Adelaide.

Applications for 2005 are: Round 4, Friday, October 7, 2005; Round 5, Friday, December 9, 2005

For more information contact Chris Naish at AFL SportsReady on 8663-3068 or email chrisn@aflsportsready.com.au

TEST YOUR SPORTS KNOWLEDGE



Hawthorn goalsneak Mark Williams

- Which AFL player did boxing trainer Johnny Lewis say he could train to become the Australian heavyweight champion if he swapped his footy boots for boxing gloves?
- Which former F1 commentator said, "We now have exactly the same situation as we had at the start of the race, only exactly the opposite"?
- What's the name of A-League club Sydney United's new star striker?
- Which past Australian US Open golf champion could play left and right-handed?
- Which boxing identity said: "I never cease to amaze myself. And I say this humbly."
- Which Australian tennis journeyman snagged a Wimbledon doubles title this year?
- At what number was Hawk Mark Williams drafted in the 2000 National Draft?
- In order, which grounds will the five Ashes Test matches be played?
- Preston Campbell has signed with which NRL club 18 months before his current club contract expires?
- Who is vice-captain of the Wallabies?

PLAYERADVICE

Thrill of the punt

Many players would have read the recent articles of former Melbourne player David Schwarz's battle with the punt and the problems that excessive gambling had created.

While the AFLPA does not accept the suggestion that 'a player gambling crisis' exists, we nevertheless take the issue of "problem" gambling by players very seriously. We accept that we must remain vigilant in our approach to identifying and combating problem gambling.

Australians love a punt.

We have a horse race that not only stops the nation, but gives one state's lucky residents a day

off for the pleasure. And with the boom in online gambling, there's never been more places for you to "do your dough".

According to experts, United States and European revenues from online gambling will increase from \$6.7 billion in 2001 to \$20.8 billion in 2005.

In respect of online gambling, the dangers are clear.

First and foremost, you are up against some formidable odds if you hope to win or even break even.

Secondly there's no guarantee that a gambling site on the other side of the world is in fact genuine. And how safe do you

think it is to type in your credit card details to such a site?

In the AFL context, the player rules are plain.

While there are no rules preventing players from using online gambling, TAB-based gambling etc, AFL players are not permitted to bet on any aspect of any AFL match. This applies regardless of whether your club is involved or you are playing.

Sanctions for any breach include monetary fines, suspension and attendance at counselling.

If you require any further information on this topic, please contact The AFL Players' Association on (03) 9328 8001.

It's more than idle chit-chat

The AFLPA recently was alerted to some Australian football message boards on ninemsn websites that contained material relating to AFL footballers that was offensive and inappropriate. The AFLPA immediately took up this matter with legal counsel for ninemsn and the offending material was withdrawn from the particular message board.

These boards, used properly, should be a great way for fans to chat about the game and its players, and inappropriate messages are in breach of the terms and conditions of the site.

It should be noted that persons who set up chat groups and message boards on websites are generally subject to terms and conditions that prohibit the posting and transmission of material that is defamatory, obscene or otherwise offensive or material that infringes the rights of other persons and gives to the publisher of the website the ability to have such offensive or inappropriate material removed.

If players or player agents become aware of any material on any message board or group on any site that is offensive, please contact this office and direct us to the specific groups and the offending comments and the matter will be taken up directly with the publisher.

Bernie Shinnors is the AFLPA's Legal Consultant

Agents conduct roundtable

The AFLPA recently held the 2005 Accredited Player Agents Conference at the MCG. The conference coincided with the National Under 18 Championships being held in Melbourne and was attended by more than 30 accredited agents from across Australia.

The AFL/AFLPA Collective Bargaining Agreement requires all player agents to be accredited by the AFLPA. The AFLPA has established an Advisory Board to govern the accreditation system and monitor the effectiveness of rules and policies which regulate the conduct of accredited agents.

The Agent Accreditation Board comprises:

Matthew Finnis (Chair), AFLPA

Dan Richardson, ESP

Liam Pickering, IMG

Ken Wood, AFL

Ian Prendergast, Carlton FC

Michael Rowe, Independent

John McMullan, Independent

AFL Investigations Manager Ken Wood provided to the conference participants an update on AFL rule developments and some interpretations relevant to player

FAST FACTS

At 30 June 2005, there were 55 accredited player agents representing AFL players

In 2002, there were 70 accredited player agents representing AFL players

Approximately 90 per cent of current AFL players utilise the services of an accredited player agent.

Fifty per cent of the AFL players who do not use an accredited player agent are between the ages of 18 and 21 years

agents as well as a snapshot of player contract structures across the leagues.

Accredited agents also received a presentation on taxation rulings and the impending AFLPA test case challenging the current ATO ruling on tax deductibility of player agent fees.

Agents are required to maintain and update their knowledge on AFL rules, regulations and contractual matters as a condi-

tion of their accreditation.

According to AFLPA Manager, Player Relations, Matt Finnis, the Conference achieved its objective of bringing player agents together to address a number of key issues which underpin the role of a player agent in the Australian football industry.

"Player agents perform an important role in the AFL and the AFLPA strives to ensure that they are provided with access to information and skills which enable them to best represent the interests of the players," Finnis said.

"The Conference provides a unique opportunity to discuss important issues such as player welfare and support services with agents, club, AFL and AFLPA representatives at the one time."

The AFLPA was also encouraged by the fact that most of the agents present at the Conference were happy to candidly discuss their views on ethical issues associated with their role with a view to achieving a higher degree of self regulation of player agent activities.

MVP RETROSPECTIVE

Stories Jason Murnane

AFL greats return for ultimate award

MORE than 250 guests and VIPs attended the AFL Players' Association gala retrospective Most Valuable Player function on June 20.

A who's who of football greats were presented with their very own Leigh Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player including the night's guest of honour, **Leigh Matthews**. The award's inaugural winner in 1982, Leigh was the first to receive the striking MVP trophy named in his honour.

Other former MVPs to attend included:

Terry Daniher, the relentless and laconic Essendon centre half-forward who won the award in 1983.

Russell Greene, whose gut-busting efforts turned him into a star with the Hawks, with whom he won the award in 1984.

Greg "Diesel" Williams, the incomparable centreman who won the award with Geelong in 1985 and Carlton 1994.

Paul Roos, the classy all-rounder who won the award when playing for Fitzroy in 1986.

Gerard Healy, the brilliant onballer and only man to win a Brownlow and a Sydney to Hobart yacht race, who won the award in 1988.

Tim Watson, the explosive and game breaking talent won the award in 1989

Darren Millane, the Magpie icon



Above Wayne Carey and Shane Crawford
Left Justin Quill, Rob Kerr and Andrew Demetriou
Right Dual Brownlow medallist Robert Harvey and Jess Fairchild
Far right Darren Millane's mother Denise and his brother Sean



and 1990 winner who we sadly lost in 1991. He was represented by brother Sean and mother Denise Millane.

Jason Dunstall, the champion Hawthorn full forward who kicked 1254 goals over his career and

won the award in 1992.

Wayne Carey, the King and quintessential centre half-forward won the award twice, in 1995 and 1998.

Corey McKernan, the spectacular ruckman cum forward

who won the award in 1996.

Robert Harvey, the relentless onballer who won the award with St Kilda in 1997.

Shane Crawford, the dynamic onballer, won the award playing with Hawthorn in 1999.



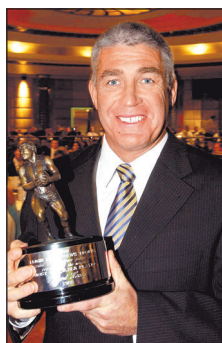
Greg Williams



Robert Harvey



Shane Crawford



Gerard Healy



Terry Daniher



Russell Greene

MVPRETROSPECTIVE

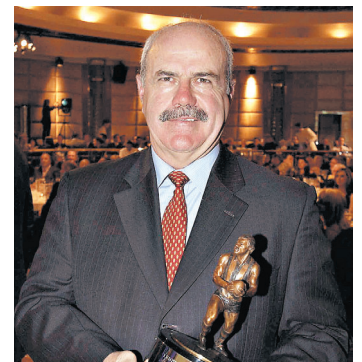


One man stands as measure of all others

In 2002, AFL players were asked to name the player they considered to be the most valuable of all time. A man who personified our great game. One name came back again and again. Leigh Matthews.

Leigh's career started in 1969 until his eventual retirement in 1985. In the current era where the average league career is about three-and-a-half years, Leigh's playing career was remarkable for its resilience alone. But of course there was more to Matthews than durability.

As a player, Leigh was in a league of his own. Regarded by his peers as one of the greats, he kicked 915 goals as a rover and resting forward in 332 games for the Hawks over a 17-year playing career. He was calculating, hard, and stunning in his ability to find another gear, to dig deeper than his opponent. He never won the Brownlow medal, but still received the second highest number of Brownlow votes over his career. He received a staggering 202 votes from the men in white over his astonishing career. Leigh's coaching career is just as impressive. He has



Leigh Matthews

coached four flags from five grand finals in 15 years of coaching. The player's decision in 2002 to name their Most Valuable Player award after Leigh Matthews illustrates the level of standing Leigh enjoys with the men who play the game.

All players will be forwarded voting information covering this year's MVP awards, including Best Captain, Most Courageous Player and Best First Year Player as well as the prestigious peer-voted Most Valuable Player Award. This year's MVP function will be held on Friday, September 23, at Melbourne's Park Hyatt.

All players will be invited and are encouraged to attend.

Anthony Koutoufides, the archetypal utility, Kouta won the award in 2000.

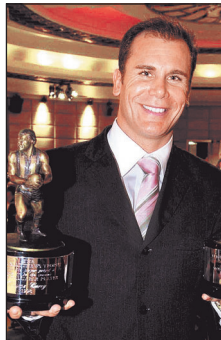
Other guests to attend included AFLPA CEO Brendon Gale, AFL Commissioners, Ron Evans and Bill Kelty, AFL CEO Andrew

Demetriou and AFLPA Advisory Board Chairman Neil Hamilton.

Though not in attendance, Tony Lockett (1987), Gary Ablett (1993) and Andrew McLeod (2001) also received their very own Leigh Matthews Trophy.



Jason Dunstall



Wayne Carey



Paul Roos



Anthony Koutoufides



Tim Watson



Corey McKernan

SCHOLARSHIPWINNERS

Scholarship winners rewarded

A number of recipients of this years AFLPA/Mike Fitzpatrick scholarships took time out of their busy timetables during the Under 18 Nationals earlier this month to attend the annual Mike Fitzpatrick scholarship lunch.

Former Carlton premiership captain, Rhodes Scholar and successful businessman Mike Fitzpatrick spoke at the function, delivering an entertaining speech emphasising to the young players gathered the importance of grasping opportunities and making the most of their football and academic abilities.

Attendees included 2005 Mike Fitzpatrick recipients Marcus Drum (VIC), Bashar Houli (VIC), Travis Boak (VIC), Nathan Lyons (VIC), Wayde Mills (QLD), Matthew Tyler (VIC), Leroy Jetta (WA) & Patrick Ryder (WA), with the young players getting a taste of the big time after being interviewed by FOX Footy.

The commitment made by these young footballers to their studies and football is perhaps best captured by 2005 Mike Fitzpatrick Scholarship holder and Queensland under 18 Captain Wayde Mills. Wayde and family, having decided the long commute from his home in the Northern New South Wales town of Lennox



Inspiration Mike Fitzpatrick talks with 2005 scholarship recipient Marcus Drum

Head to his Under 18 side in Brisbane was too taxing, have decided to temporarily relocate to a caravan park in the Brisbane suburb of Mount Gravatt to pursue his dream of being drafted.

A number of former Mike Fitzpatrick scholarship recipients and current senior listed AFL players also attended the lunch, including St Kilda's Xavier & Raphael Clarke and Collingwood's Richard Cole and Billy Morrison.

Since 2001, the AFLPA has

awarded scholarships to assist young players aged 15 - 17 with their education whilst they pursue their football dreams. The scholarships are named in honour of Fitzpatrick, to recognise his outstanding sporting, academic and business accomplishments.

The AFLPA has distributed over \$250,000 to 45 young players since the scholarships inception. Scholarship holders have a good chance of going on to be drafted with around 50% of the

scholarship's recipients being subsequently drafted by an AFL club, including, Richard Cole (Collingwood); Xavier Clarke (St Kilda); Jimmy Bartel (Geelong); Sam Butler (West Coast); Ryan Griffin (Bulldogs); Cameron Wood (Brisbane); Toby Stribling (Fremantle); Lance Franklin (Hawthorn) amongst others.

Applications for the 2006 Mike Fitzpatrick Scholarships are now open. Go to www.aflpa.com.au for details and application forms.

TAXATION UPDATE

The AFLPA and its Tax Advisors Dominion Private Clients have been negotiating with the Australian Tax Office ("ATO") to clarify the tax deductibility of certain costs for Players. The major issue concerns the tax deductibility of Player Agent Fees incurred to renegotiate your Playing Contract either with your existing Club or a new Club.

On the basis we could not reach a suitable resolution of the matter with the ATO we have successfully applied for Test Case

Funding from the Government to have the matter resolved in the Courts. This will determine the cost of tax deductibility of Player Agent contract negotiation/renegotiation costs incurred by players prior to July 1, 2005.

How Do I Protect My Interests?

If in the period up to 30 June 2005 you have incurred Player Agent costs to negotiate/renegotiate your Playing Contract, your Tax Agent should be lodging with the ATO an objection against your prior year tax

assessments. If our Federal Court Test Case is successful, the Objection will protect your interests and you may be entitled to a tax refund.

To assist, Dominion Private Clients have prepared a proforma Objection. Have your Tax Agent contact Anthony Jackson (03 9607 6867 or anthonyjackson@dominionpc.com.au) for a copy of the standard objection and guidance on how to complete it on your behalf.

Tax Deductibility of Future

Player Agent Costs

Significant progress has been made in relation to confirming the future tax deductibility of Agents Fees where players are renegotiating contracts. Minor modifications were made to the CBA between the AFLPA and AFL and the Standard Playing Contract to satisfy some ATO concerns. Accordingly future Player Agent costs you incur in renegotiating contracts will be tax deductible. Watch this space for the status of our Test Case.

SPORTSREADY

Story courtesy of Fremantle Football Club

Troy lends a guiding hand



Guiding hand Fremantle star Troy Cook (right) with trainee Kirk Dorizzi

MORE THAN A DECADE ago Essendon Coach Kevin Sheedy, in conjunction with the AFL, initiated an education programme to ensure young players were prepared for life after football.

Today that programme has expanded across the country and now enriches the lives of many beyond the footy field.

Fremantle midfielder Troy Cook is the public face of AFL Sports Ready in WA and has actively promoted the program for more than three years. Troy believes it is an invaluable resource for young footballers, most of whom are drafted into the AFL system directly out of high school and have limited work experience.

"It keeps them busy when they're away from the club and keeps the mind active. It gives these younger guys some knowledge of what they might like to do into the future," he said.

The success of the AFL Sports Ready program has helped it expand at a rapid rate and has moved outside the AFL realm and now incorporates traineeships for high school students. In WA alone more than 100 trainees are involved with AFL Sports Ready and it continues to grow.

"Everyone is different and it's a great opportunity for someone that may not be that interested in school but can get involved in a traineeship that will see them through high school and hopefully lead to a fulltime job down the track," said Troy.

Swan View high school student Kirk Dorizzi is one of the program's trainees and spends two days a week at Whiteman Park learning the ropes in what he hopes will lead to a career in conservation and land management.

Assisting that dream is a mentor system where Troy visits the teenager and chats about

everything from work to footy.

"If Kirk has any problems he might feel more comfortable speaking to me about those problems than anyone else.

"I'm basically here to make sure everything is going okay and to visit him every now and then.

"If he wants to talk about any problems at school, work or even at home I'm happy to listen and help him out," Troy said.

"He's very encouraging and talks to me a lot," said Kirk. "It shows us they (AFL players) are normal people except can play footy better than most of us," he said with a smile. A budding young footballer himself, Kirk acknowledges the program has opened his eyes to a career that he hadn't even considered.

"I didn't expect to work in this area, I wanted to be a mechanic but after coming to Whiteman Park it has changed my mind," he said.

While it's obvious the kids get a

buzz out of Troy's involvement in the programme it is a major time commitment for an AFL footballer but one he's more than willing to do. Troy's offfield work also includes an ambassador role for the Cerebral Palsy Association, which is one of Fremantle's two aligned charities in 2005.

"You just have to organise your time well," said Troy. "Football is first and foremost but it's good to be involved with things outside of footy because it takes your mind off it for a while.

You can get a bit caught up in the daily grind so to have a break from it and help others is something I really enjoy."

The tough midfielder has a heart as big off the field as he does on it and won't even let cross-town rivalries get in the way.

Troy chuckled while admitting some of the trainees, like Kirk, barrack for the Eagles but said he "won't hold that against them!"

UNITEDFRONT

Player groups show united front

The AFLPA regularly meets with representatives of fellow professional athlete associations throughout Australia to share ideas, experiences and information related to furthering the interests of sportspeople.

The player associations for AFL, rugby union, rugby league, soccer, cricket and swimming have an informal alliance which seeks to capitalise upon their collective resources.

The associations have recently joined forces to pursue tax relief for professional athletes in relation to player agent fees and medical expenses. In recognition of the depth of their combined membership, the associations have been able to secure funding from the ATO to run a test case which will hopefully result in a uniform tax ruling allowing



United AFLPA's Matt Finnis and Brendon Gale, NRLPA's Tony Butterfield and RUPA's Tony Dempsey

professional athletes to claim tax deductions for expenses spent on player agent fees and personal medical treatments not covered by clubs or private health cover.

Other issues among the various player associations include player injury insurance regimes, delivery

of education and welfare programs, regulation of player agents and developments in employment-related laws.

Whilst each sporting code has its own unique issues and challenges, the objects of each player association are very similar. The

AFLPA considers it useful to work with its fellow player associations to learn of the benefits each is able to offer their respective members and the outcomes they derive via negotiations with sports governing bodies and leagues.

PDPs offer great opportunities



The AFL Players' Association's innovative Professional Development Program offers young AFL players an opportunity to study for professional and customised qualifications.

The Program is delivered for the AFLPA by Athlete Development Australia (ADA) and reinforces the Association's commitment to provide players with the tools they require to be successful both on and off the field.

Participants can undertake either a Certificate II in Sport or a Certificate IV in Sport & Recreation. This year, eight clubs are involved in the Professional Development Program, including: **Certificate II in Sport:** Carlton (11 players), Melbourne (5),



Young Hawks and Demons training with Fox Footy's Tiffany Cherry

Hawthorn (8), Brisbane (11), Fremantle (11), Adelaide (12) **Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation:** Kangaroos (20), Geelong (10).

The course covers a variety of topics including:

- * Financial Planning
- * School visits
- * Media Training
- * Prison visits
- * First aid training

- * Cooking classes
- * Time management skills
- * Clinic management
- * Computer skills
- * Career goal setting

The course has been very well received by the players. The weekly catch ups give younger players on each club's list an opportunity to come together and do something a little bit different within the football club.

Both certificates further develop participants in areas that directly relate to their football as well as adding skills that will help them in life

From our point of view it has been a great experience. Watching the young guys work together and share personal experiences to help each other has made the program very worthwhile. We are very much looking forward to our continual involvement with clubs in the coming years.

Jim Plunkett, Programs Manager at ADA, played 47 games with the Western Bulldogs & Carlton and has completed a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Teaching.

Mark Porter, Program Manager at ADA, played 110 games with Carlton & North Melbourne and has completed a Bachelor of Science - Physical Education.

Jim Plunkett & Mark Porter

SHORTPASSES

Retirement and delisting

All players who retire or are delisted by their club at the end of season 2005 will receive an AFLPA information booklet on the process. Any players with questions on this process can contact Matt Finnis or Lisa Milling on (03) 9328 8001.

Grant Eligibility

Senior listed players are able to apply for Education & Training Grants whilst they are on a senior list and for up to three years after leaving the AFL. Rookies can apply for grants whilst they are rookie listed and for up to one year after leaving AFL. For more information, contact Lisa Milling or Jessica Fairchild at the AFLPA on (03) 9328 8001.

MVP Function

This year, the AFLPA will be holding the Most Valuable Player function on Grand Final Eve, Friday September 23 at Melbourne's Park Hyatt.

It's a terrific way for players to unwind, celebrate the season and catch up with fellow players.

Players will soon receive voting forms for the various categories, including Most Courageous, Best Captain, Best First Year Player as well as the prestigious Leigh



Star-studded Nathan Buckley and Nick Riewoldt

Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player.

Email addresses

If you are not already receiving emails from the AFLPA, we may not have your current email address.

If you are not receiving emails from the Association, and would like to be in the loop, please contact the AFLPA on (03) 9328 8001 to pass on your details.

Player Survey

Thanks to all those players who completed this year's AFLPA

Player Survey. Your thoughts form a key part of AFLPA policy.

Review CDs

If you would like to review CD's for Inform, please contact Jason Murnane at the AFLPA on (03) 9328 8001 to be hooked up with some new music to review.

Charity Receipts

By now players should have received your 2005 charity fund receipts. If not, please contact your club's pay office or Kim Gregg at the AFLPA on (03) 9328 8001.

QUIZ ANSWERS



Barry Hall sizes up Carlton's David Teague
Picture: Getty Images

1. Barry Hall
2. Murray Walker
3. Dwight Yorke
4. David Graham (US Open 1983)
5. Don King
6. Stephen Huss
7. 43
8. Lords, Edgbaston, Old Trafford, Trent Bridge, The Oval
9. Gold Coast
10. Nathan Sharpe

DISCLAIMERS

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GOLF TIPS

with former pro-golfer Kim Gregg

Bottom line is that most people who don't hit 1000 golf balls a day under strict professional supervision will at some stage in their golfing life, suffer the dreaded slice!

There is one recurring, swing malfunction that helps get that ball going sideways through the air like nothing you've seen before, particularly when you don't want it to (a bit like a banana kick when you are trying to kick the ball straight) its called the reverse pivot.

Being an elite athlete, I am

assuming that you are in tip top shape, particularly with regards to your flexibility and strength so there shouldn't be any physical reasons or excuses for having a dodgy golf swing or a reverse pivot.

To avoid the reverse pivot and assuming your set-up/address position is spot on before you take your swing - a correct pivot on the takeaway and backswing will have you feel like your hips have turned slightly, to where your belt buckle is pointing in the direction of your right toes,

and your right knee stays flexed with the majority of your weight balanced on your right foot, where it should stay until you start your downswing.

By maintaining that slight flex in your right knee (left for lefties) the correct pivot, on the backswing you will be on your way to a better more reliable golf swing, with straighter, stronger golf shots the result.

For more assistance or to improve you golf technique in leaps and bounds seek professional advice!

2005 MVP

Friday 23 September

At the Park Hyatt

your vote your night

Who will win the 2005 Most Valuable Player Award?

Who will win the 2005 Most Courageous Player and Best Captain?



After party at Raddi (in the Park Hyatt) | Live on Fox Footy