



Australian Football
League Players'
Association

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AFL Players' Association Fact Sheet

Mike Fitzpatrick Scholarships

The Mike Fitzpatrick Scholarships are designed to support young players in their education and training while they are aspiring to an AFL career. The program has been developed in conjunction with the AFLPA Player Development Program and reinforces the association's commitment to the future player education and welfare of AFL players.

The scholarships are named after Mike Fitzpatrick in recognition of his outstanding efforts and achievement to combine football with academic excellence. Mike took leave from professional football in 1975 and left Australia to study a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford. Upon completion of his studies, Mike rejoined the Carlton Football Club and was captain from 1980 to 1983. As well as being an AFL Commissioner, Mike is founder and managing director of Hastings Funds Management Limited. He was formerly a director with CS First Boston, a member of the Melbourne Park Tennis Centre Trust, a director of the Carlton Football Club, Chairman of the Australian Sports Commission and a Vice President of the then VFL Players' Association in the early 1980s.

Criteria

- Scholarships are available to players who have turned 15 but not attained the age of 17 by 30 June in the year the scholarship is awarded
- The scholarship is for the period from 1 January to 31 December of the awarded year
- The player must remain in secondary school or its equivalent for the period of the grant

The grant has been given to the player to assist him to meet his educational commitments whilst developing as a footballer. The grant funding can be used to directly pay for the education of a player or to reimburse him or his family for these expenses.

Applications

Kevin Sheehan, AFL National Talent Manager, distributes applications through the state leagues for the Under 16s championships each year and through the AFL Players' Association website (early July). The 12-month scholarships are available Australia-wide, however an AFL Club or a State League Club must nominate the applicant. The Mike Fitzpatrick Scholarship Committee consists of Ken Fraser, chairman of the AFLPA Education and Training Board, Kevin Sheehan, AFL National Talent Manager, Brendon Gale, AFLPA CEO and Lisa Milling, AFLPA Education and Training Manager.

Past Scholarship Recipients

2001

Richard Cole	Northern Territory	Drafted to Collingwood, first season in 2002
Xavier Clarke	Northern Territory	Drafted to St Kilda, first season in 2002
Damon White	South Australia	Drafted to Port Adelaide, first season in 2002
Heath Lawry	Queensland	
Adam Fisher	Victoria	Rookied with Melbourne in 2003
James Bartel	Victoria	Drafted to Geelong, first season in 2002

2002

Raphael Clarke	Northern Territory	Drafted to St Kilda
Mark Horner	South Australia	
Byron Schammer	South Australia	Drafted to Fremantle, first season in 2002
Brennan Savage	Tasmania	
Luke Brennan	Victoria	Drafted to Hawthorn, first season in 2002
Adrian Curley	Western Australia	

2003

Samuel Butler	South Australia	Drafted to West Coast Eagles
Ryley Dunn	Victoria	Drafted to Fremantle
Alex Gilmour	Tasmania	Drafted to Richmond
Billy Morrison	Tasmania	Drafted to Collingwood
James Pavone	Queensland	
Tim Schmidt	South Australia	Drafted to Sydney Swans
Christopher Stewart	Victoria	
Beau Waters	South Australia	Drafted to West Coast Eagles

2004

David Ryan	NSW	
Joel Hartley	NSW	
Ryan Griffen	South Australia	Drafted to Western Bulldogs
Cameron Wood	South Australia	Drafted to Brisbane
Toby Stribling	South Australia	Drafted to Fremantle
Samuel Lonergan	Tasmania	
Grant Birchall	Tasmania	
Beau Dowler	Victoria (pictured, right, with Mike Fitzpatrick at MVP03)	
Ryan Herring	Victoria	
Joshua Kennedy	Western Australia	
Buddy (Lance) Franklin	Western Australia	Drafted to Hawthorn
Joshua Ratcliffe	Queensland	
Courtenay Dempsey	Queensland	

2005

Dylan Addison	NSW	
Wayde Mills	Queensland	
Benjamin Arbon	SA	
Jonathon Cheetham	SA	
Travis Varcoe	SA	
Travis Boak	VIC	
Marcus Drum	VIC	
Nathan Lyons	VIC	
Bashar Houli	VIC	
Matthew Tyler	VIC	
Leroy Jetta	WA	
Patrick Ryder	WA	



Photo: Sam D'Agostino/SDP Photo
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