

GEELONG

MATHEW STOKES

MID - \$525,000

Even though he is 29, turning 30, he is playing career best footy. More midfield time last year saw his average lift from 65 to 97!! Selected in only 0.81% of sides currently, but he is also only a midfielder, which makes it harder to find reason to put him in your side. Only had one score below 70 last year; a 19 possession and 10 mark game in which he only scored 58 (can only imagine there must have been a few clangers in there). 39 disposals in NAB Challenge suggest another good season is on the cards. Another POD player who would be a solid M3 or M4.

Others to consider.....

Steve Johnson - MID - \$625,000

Probably a touch too expensive for my liking, but he is a gun. Last year he impressed me with his consistency, as I'd always steered away because he threw in the odd quiet game. That changed last year and he averaged 115. Could be a really different M2 or M3 to Cotchin, Watson, Swan etc... Does a few silly things and always risks suspension, but he plays on the edge and I wouldn't ever want him to change. Lost his DPP which hurts his selection percentage.

Dawson Simpson - RUCK - \$430,400

Averaged 88 last year over 6 games AND that included being subbed off twice, for 63 and 22. His other scores were 63, 105, 133 and 148. There is no doubting his quality. Trent West has gone to Brisbane and Nathan Vardy is out for the season. McIntosh ahead of him, but only takes one injury for that to change; consider him later in the year.