



# SUPERCOACH HQ 2014 X-FILES

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Words: Matt

# ADELAIDE CROWS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def Port Adelaide, Game 2: Def Carlton

The Crows have been impressive this pre-season, comfortable defeating two of last year's finalists.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Matt Crouch** - the ball magnet brother of Brad will score well, but first he must break in to the Crows' outfit. With van Berlo out, it should increase his chances.

**Patrick Dangerfield** - even though he's only averaging 15.5 disposals in the NAB Challenge, he's picked up FWD DPP, so he has to be one of your first picked players.

**Sam Jacobs** - clearly the Crows' number one ruckman and he's underpriced after a poor 2013, but if you think he can return to his 2012 form he could be a bargain.

**Rory Sloane** - already one of the stars of the Crows, but can he take the next step and become elite?

**Matt Wright** - Like Jacobs, Wright was disappointing last year, so he's dirt cheap. He's been outstanding so far this pre-season, so if he's not used as the tagger, get on him.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Ricky Henderson** - he'll miss most of the season with a leg injury, which is disappointing since he would've been a good pick for your backline. Cross him off your list.

**Nathan van Berlo** - the Crow's captain will be out for a while too, as it's unlikely that we'll see him this season. This could open the door for Matt Crouch in the Crows' midfield.

**Taylor Walker** - Tex, still recovering from a serious knee, won't back until at least round five, as stated by coach Brenton Sanderson, so take him out of your team for now, but he could be a good option later in the year.





Words: Tom

# BRISBANE LIONS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Hawthorn, Game 2: Def Gold Coast

Justin Leppitsch has come in and had an impact on the side straight away. There is a much larger emphasis on defensive game play and making sure that if the ball gets turned over, not much damage is done. There is a predictable play when rebounding from defence, with a switch across the ground followed by a wave of defenders moving forward along the boundary to cramp the opposition. An initial poor performance against Hawthorn was backed up with a strong showing against Gold Coast, with an almost full strength team.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Tom Rockliff** – Leppitsch looks to be playing him in the midfield, the position where he dominated last year. Could be one of the buys of the year and become a real elite player.

**Pearce Hanley** – Looks to have lost none of his pace and will be playing a very similar role to last year rebounding off half back and pushing up to a wing. Lock him in as a premium defender.

**James Aish** – In the running for the last midfield spot and probably competing with Beams for it. Just ahead at the moment and should make the round 1 team. His body looks ready for the rigors of AFL football and he should slot right in.

**Dayne Zorko** – Zorko did play in the midfield for a bit during the NAB Challenge, but I don't see him spending too much time there during the season regular. He just plays the small forward role too well. I'd avoid him, but quite a few coaches are taking the punt on him.

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Jonathan Brown** – Has progressed very well at training and the champ is now a near certainty to be right for round 1. Could be a nice sneaky pick up in a draft league.

**Brent Staker** – Also has recovered well from a calf injury and is set to go for the start of the season. Like Brown, he won't be the most popular choice in SuperCoach, but could be a good player in a draft league.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Shorty

# CARLTON BLUES



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def North Melbourne, Game 2: Def by Adelaide

The Blues looked sharp over the NAB Challenge period, claiming victory against North Melbourne but then succumbing to the Crows, a bright 2014 could be on the cards.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Marc Murphy** - Can the Blues skipper rediscover his blistering form of 2009-12? His pre-season has been promising; I think a return to the elite bracket is a big possibility for Murphy.

**Dale Thomas** - Daisy played his first game in the navy blue last week and looks set for a round one berth. The question isn't on his scoring ability but those shonky ankles, a gamble may pay off handsomely, or we could see him sidelined in the opening month - the choice is yours.

**Dylan Buckley** - Buckley enters his third season on the list and should push for senior selection, if he can find a role in the Blues outfit he could be a handy pick up.

**Kade Simpson** - Extremely reliable, he won't break any records with his scores, but you can certainly rely on him for a solid 90-95 average.

**Matthew Kreuzer** - Not the greatest pre-season for Kreuzer, I think we may see his best form around round 6, an upgrade target for mine.

## **Notable injuries/suspensions:**

**Chris Judd** - All the talk was of Judd's stellar summer until he went down with an achilles injury. While he may not directly be in many sides, his presence makes Murphy's life much easier.

**Sam Docherty** - He will be in the selection frame in the early rounds, a round one berth looks unlikely with his groin injury which would rule the classy half-back flanker out of SuperCoach contention.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Dylan

# COLLINGWOOD MAGPIES



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Geelong, Game 2: Def by Richmond

The Pies failed to win a game in the NAB Challenge, going down to Geelong (in a close contest) & Richmond (big loss). It wasn't all doom and gloom for the Pies though, as they welcomed 8 new faces for their first crack in the black and white. Depth has been the key for Collingwood for several years and nothing looks to have changed, making them a genuine premiership contender.

## **Supercoach Relevant:**

**Dayne Beams:** Played the opening game of the NAB challenge (against Geelong) and looked solid as a rock! Compiled a team high 35 possessions and is in for a big 2014. At \$497, 200 Beams is an absolute steal, especially if he get back to his 2012 form (averaging 120, he's beams there done that!). Will be one of the most popular selections this season...**LOCK.**

**Scott Pendlebury:** The newly appointed captain is currently in the prime of his career and at 26 has plenty of footy ahead of him. A Supercoach beast who has provided us with consistent output for half a decade now. Has burnt the house down in pre-season and is shaping up to have another HUGE year. A sub in NAB 1 & played 83% game time against the tigers (29 touches) doing what he does best. Will be a popular captain choice...**LOCK.**

**Taylor Adams:** The highly rated youngster came across to the pies last year after leaving GWS and made an instant impact for the pies. Playing his only NAB challenge match against Geelong, Adams racked up 31 disposals (for only 65% game time) and looked right at home in the black and white. At \$410, 900 by no means is Adams a bargain, but his potential breakout season has many licking their lips. Shouldn't receive much attention considering Collingwood's plethora of superstars and expect him to average from anywhere between 85-95.... **Consider.**

**Alex Fasolo:** After missing majority of the 2013 season through injury, Fasolo returned against Richmond for his first competitive AFL hit out in 10 months. Although he managed to gather 14 disposals and 3 clearances, he is clearly lacking match fitness at this stage. Extremely under-priced at \$213,600 and will prove to be a cash cow for many teams. Fasolo won't be providing premium Supercoach output this year, but expect 65-75 average. Sub alert for the first couple of rounds, but is a solid F4 option...**Strongly Consider.**

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Tim Broomhead:** 2<sup>nd</sup> year rookie, high draft pick who looked decent early in NAB 1. Will play this year, but out for 4-5 weeks with a broken hand.

**Nathan Freeman:** Collingwood's 2<sup>nd</sup> selection (10<sup>th</sup> overall) in the 2013 draft picked up 8 touches early in NAB 1. A hamstring injury unfortunately keeps him out for 5 weeks.

**Patrick Karnezis:** After coming across from Brisbane last year, Karnezis has had to battle Osteitis Pubis. Has missed a chunk of pre-season and won't be seen to early April.





Words: Tom

# ESSENDON BOMBERS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Gold Coast, Game 2: Def by Port Adelaide

The Bombers had a close loss to Gold Coast first up followed by a strong showing from the Power. Mark Thompson has taken over for the year, but there doesn't seem to be too much of a game style change. Michael Hurley has gone back, leaving Jake Carlisle to be the focal point up forward alongside Joe Daniher.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Jobe Watson** - A champion player who should continue on as normal this year. Hopefully he will be able to put the ASADA investigation behind him so he can return to his best of 2012.

**Paul Chapman** - Had a strong showing in the NAB Challenge, but has said that his aim is to play 15 games this year. He is likely to play 3 or 4 games then be rested a week, so if you do take the punt on him, make sure you have the cover.

**Joe Daniher** - Coming into his second season, Daniher will get a spot in Essendon's best 22 as the forward line goes through a rebuilding phase. The only question is whether or not he is ready to take the next step up and average a solid 80-90 that would see his price rise nicely.

**Patrick Ryder** - Ryder teases us so often with his amazing talent, but never seems to be able to deliver consistently. With Bellchambers injured and out of the picture of a while, he will hold the first ruck mantle. Maybe this year he can show us how good he really is?

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Tom Bellchambers** - Needed surgery to repair ligaments in his ankle and will miss a fair chunk of the start of the season. Leaves Ryder as the number one ruck.

**Michael Hibberd** - Sustained a minor hamstring strain in the NAB Challenge, but we are assured that he will be fit for round 1.





Words: Matt

# FREMANTLE DOCKERS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by West Coast, Game 2: Def Western Bulldogs

Hardly an impressive pre-season, getting smashed by rivals West Coast, but they did perform better in their next game against the Bulldogs.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Michael Barlow** - the ball magnet is looking to back up a very solid year in 2013 and he could become a good POD, in your midfield.

**Nathan Fyfe** - Fyfe was good in 2013, but he'll look to improve further in 2014. If he works on his kicking, his SuperCoach scores will be elite.

**Matthew Pavlich** - SuperPav is quite underpriced and from all reports he's flying this pre-season. He's already kicked four goals from two games, so I think he'll be a safe pick.

**Aaron Sandilands** - the giant should be popular among SuperCoaches as he's cheap and has performed well so far in the NAB Challenge. Lock him as either your R1 or R2.

**Colin Sylvia** - Sylvia's move from Melbourne should help him increase his fantasy scores, as we know he has talent and Ross should be able to get the best out of him. He could be a unique forward option.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Zac Clarke** - somehow he's injured his knee at a music festival, but Clarke could be ready to go in round one.

**Jonathan Griffin** - still expected to miss some of the season with his knee injury, which will leave a ruck combo of Sandi and Clarke.

**Anthony Morabito** - the luckless rookie is hoping to play sometime this year, as the Dockers remain cautious as he's coming back from his third knee reconstruction. If everything goes well, he could be a useful downgrade option.





Words: Shorty

# GEELONG CATS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def Collingwood, Game 2: Def Melbourne

A horror start to 2014 injury wise, yet the Cats continue their winning culture. A new wave of next generation stars promises Geelong won't fall back from the pack any time soon.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Joel Selwood** - An absolute jet; however given his hamstring tweak against Melbourne we may see him as an upgrade target for your midfield.

**Steve Johnson** - Johnson has all the tricks in the bag and the move to the midfield added plenty of consistency to his game, a unique option.

**Jimmy Bartel** - Jimmy found plenty of the ball playing as the Cats 'quarter back' last season, expect him to move forward. How this affects his scoring output we will wait and see but I'd tread with caution.

**Josh Caddy** - A prime break out contender, ticks all the boxes. Caddy will be a popular pick and for good reason.

**Hamish McIntosh** - McIntosh saw his first senior action against the Dees since round 7, 2012. He will be closely monitored throughout the year and won't play 22 matches, let alone 15. It would take a brave coach to select him.

**Lincoln McCarthy** - A round one berth is well and truly on the cards, worth consideration for your bench up forward.

**Tom Hawkins** - He looks to be covering the ground beautifully, if he can rediscover his 2012 form he is a bargain.

## **Notable injuries/suspensions**

**Steve Motlop** - A huge blow for the Cats, his pace was influential in 2013 and with the promise of that and more in 2014, both Cats fans and SuperCoach's were taking note. However, a knee injury saw him quickly exit our sides.

**Allen Christensen** - Another cruel blow down at Geelong, Bundy is an AFL star on the rise and certainly one for the future but as we won't see him until mid-season, 2014 is not the year.

**Shane Kersten** - The talented forward has had an interrupted pre-season which hasn't helped his bid for an early debut. He may be a handy option mid-year given the Cat's tall forward conundrum.

**Joel Selwood** - Nothing to stress about here as far as games missed, he is in line for round 1.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Tom

# GOLD COAST SUNS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def Essendon, Game 2: Def by Brisbane

The Suns played a very good game against the Bombers, getting up by just a point, but were outclassed by Brisbane when Ablett had a rest. They looked impressive throughout however, and they look ready for a big season where they could potentially challenge for a top 8 spot.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Gary Ablett Jnr** - It goes without saying, but Gary Ablett is still the best player in the game. Don't let his huge price tag sway you from picking the champ, you have to him in your team if you want to be successful in SuperCoach.

**Harley Bennell** - Missed the first game, but played the second and worked very hard on a wing. He was rewarded for his hard work, with 4 goals showing that he has the ability to make an impact up forward too. Could be the year he joins the competition's elite.

**David Swallow** - Played the first NAB Challenge game and rotated through the backline and midfield, picking up 78 points along the way. His DPP status has meant he is in a lot of teams this year and is an alternative to picking Matt Suckling.

**Charlie Dixon** - The big man has been playing third fiddle in the ruck behind Tom Nicholls and Dan Gorringer and he may struggle for game time in the midfield throughout the season. This is where he scored the bulk of his point last season, so if he is stuck up forward all day, he might not be as prolific as many expect he will.

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Nathan Bock** - It's unknown how long Bock's injury is going to keep him out for, but he definitely won't be right for round 1. Keep him on your watchlist as a mid-season downgrade option.

**Zac Smith** - Smith, of course, ruptured his ACL last season, and while progress in returning from the injury has been steady, he is not near returning to AFL yet.





Words: Dylan

# GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY GIANTS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Defeated by Sydney, Game 2: Defeated St Kilda

The Giants are now entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> season in the AFL and after finishing bottom in 2012 & 2013 improvement will be expected this year. The likes of Shiel, Treloar, Cameron, Coniglio & Greene are now entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> full season of footy and will need to stamp their authority on the football world. A 68 point hammering against the Saints will do the boys in orange a world of good only 2 weeks out from round 1.

## **Supercoach Relevant:**

**Toby Greene** - Young Toby had the classic case of 2<sup>nd</sup> year blues last season after exploding on the scene in 2012. Greene had an outstanding game against the Swans, racking up 30 touches from 72% TOG, suggesting he has the ability to score against quality opposition. Priced at \$394,600, Greene is underpriced and should be **Considered**.

**Callan Ward** - Callan Ward continues to grow as a player each game he plays. A constant learner of the game, Ward has had the challenge of keeping the positive mindset of his teammates over the last couple of years. At 23, he has now played over 100 senior games and is beginning to cement himself as one of the games premium midfielders. Ward is priced at \$525,000 and should stay around that price for much of 2014. Expect an average of 105-10 and beware of the tag.... **POD**.

**Shane Mumford** - The big Mummy has made the cross-town switch to the Giants this season (appropriate team for the big fella). After starting 2013 quite poorly for the Swans, Mumford soon turned his form around, averaging 116.5 in his last six games! He has had a number of issues with his back over the years, but when he is firing he is certainly one of the competitions best ruckman. The duo of Mumford and Giles could prove to be formidable. Priced at \$496,00 Mumford presents to be a solid 1<sup>st</sup> ruck option....**Strongly Consider**.

**Jed Lamb** - Lamb will ply his trade for the Giants in 2014 and while the forward flanker wasn't the heaviest of Supercoach scorers (averaging 45.3), it is the possible job security that may be tempting to a number of coaches. Lamb played both NAB Cup games, managing 13 touches and a goal against the Swans & 14 touches and 1.4 against the Saints...**Consider**

**Heath Shaw** - One of our favourite Supercoaches...HEATER. You either love him or you hate him and if you have ever had him in your Supercoach team, it's one hell of a ride! The waddling half back flanker has been a defensive stalwart for many, averaging over 90 in his past 8 seasons, but it's his inconsistency that gets many shaking their heads. A change of scenery could just be the spark Shaw needs and from inside reports he has been an outstanding leader on and off the park thus far. Hasn't looked spectacular in the NAB Cup...**Consider**.

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

No Current Injuries relating to Supercoach





Words: Tom

# HAWTHORN HAWKS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def Brisbane, Game 2: Def North Melbourne

Alistair Clarkson's men look hungry for back-to-back premiership success and have come out with a very strong pre-season display. They absolutely destroyed a young Brisbane side before going to town on North Melbourne. And all of that without a man called Buddy....

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Sam Mitchell** - The ultra-consistent performer now has DPP status and can be picked in the backline. He is one of the most selected players in the competition, and you would do well to include him in your side.

**Matt Suckling** - The man with the lethal left boot enjoyed a solid return to football through the NAB Challenge. Returns of 61 in his first game and a 25 as a sub in his second were nothing to write home about, but he will continue to get better as he gets more game time. Expect him to average 85-95 and be a great cash cow.

**Will Langford** - There is plenty of quality from Hawthorn available in the backline this year, and it continues with Langford. A very highly rated youngster, Langford has finally gotten on top of injury, and impressed with 19 possessions, 3 goals and 105 SC points against the Kangaroos.

**Liam Shiels** - In 2011 Shiels averaged 91 points a game. Since then he has been relegated to a tagging role and has returned averages of 70 and 61. In the NAB Challenge, he returned to his old role of racking up the ball through the middle and returned scores of 86 and 135. At a great price for a cash cow, he could be a very nice POD in the midfield this year.

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Brian Lake** - Won a Norm Smith, but paid for it by having to sit out the first 3 weeks of this season. Not the most relevant player in SC anymore, but could be a nice pick in a draft league.

**Brendan Whitecross** - Set to miss most of the season again after that second ACL in a row in the Preliminary Final. Keep him on your radar for 2015, but not this year.

**Cyril Rioli** - The most delicious player in the league will miss the first two rounds of the year with suspension. You'd be a brave man to pick him regardless, with his injury history and inconsistent scoring. There are better options out there.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Schon

# MELBOURNE DEMONS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def Richmond, Game 2: Def by Geelong

Yes it's only pre-season and yes it's only been two games, but the Demons have shown a lot of improvement on the side that was deplorable last year. The Red & Blue are going to be in a lot of sides this year.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Viv Michie** - Michie came across from the Dockers in the off-season and has immediately impressed; gathering 19 touches in both practice matches, while averaging only 60% game time. Is in Melbourne's Best 22.

**Dom Tyson** - Tyson had a quiet start in NAB1 but was prolific against the Cats, with 29 touches, 7 tackles and 3 clearances. He was composed around the stoppages and gathered 8 contested possessions too - certainly worth the \$216k.

**Jay Kennedy-Harris** - JKH only played the Demons' first NAB match, but didn't he make an impact? 13 touches, 3 goals and 99 SuperCoach points is an amazing debut return for the small forward.

**Bernie Vince** - 32 touches and 34 touches. 5 clearances and 8 clearances. 115 SuperCoach points and 129 SuperCoach points. BV couldn't have started 2014 any better at his new home. I'm seriously considering him.

**Jesse Hogan** - The gun junior will get a lot of opportunities this season, especially early with Clark & Dawes out (see below). He costs a hefty \$217k, but you might have to make an exception.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Mitch Clark** - The injury-prone Clark will miss the start of the season with a hamstring injury, after finally overcoming foot troubles.

**Colin Garland** - Garland was resolute in defence last year and won Melbourne's B&F as a result - his ankle injury will keep him out of Melbourne's R1 team and is a big loss for the Demons.

**Chris Dawes** - The big man hasn't seen any NAB action due to his calf injury. A slight chance to be fit for round one.





Words: Matt

# NORTH MELBOURNE KANGAROOS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Carlton, Game 2: Def by Hawthorn

The Kangaroos have been far from exciting, getting belted by the Hawks and losing to the Blues, but their new recruits have impressed in this time.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Todd Goldstein** - Goldy was back to his best last year, but expect him to get help from Daw or Currie in the ruck this year. Will that affect his scores?

**Lachlan Hansen** - Hansen was awesome in the second half of the year averaging 92.9 points (unsubbed) after the bye. He's not expensive, so he would be a good unique option if he can maintain his late season form.

**Luke McDonald** - he averages 19.5 disposals from two games in the NAB Challenge, so lock into your backline. He's already had a season in the VFL, so he's more advanced than other first year rookies.

**Scott D. Thompson** - a unique option down back, Thompson is only one of a few key defenders you should consider, as he is still able to find the ball while also shutting down his opponent.

**Jack Ziebell** - a breakout year is looming in 2014 for Ziebell. He was everywhere in the Roos' first game, but was tagged out of it in the second. The round eight bye doesn't help and he isn't cheap, so it will be hard to fit him in.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Andrew Swallow** - he won't be right until around mid season, due to an achilles injury he suffered last year. If he drops in price even further, he could be someone to watch later in the year.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Shorty

# PORT ADELAIDE POWER



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Adelaide, Game 2: Def Essendon

The NAB Challenge brought about a loss to arch rivals Adelaide and a win over the Bombers. A solid pre-season for the surprise packets of 2013, now the focus will be on them backing up that form this year.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Chad Wingard** - An explosive player with all the makings to be one of the most influential players in the game. He comes at a hefty price tag this year however, be mindful he will get much closer attention 2014.

**Justin Westhoff** - Somewhat of a rollercoaster ride, 120 points between his best and worst score in 2013 highlights this. If the 'Hoff' can erase some of those quiet outings he could be anything, as we know his ceiling is as high as any.

**Tom Clurey** - With some of Port Adelaide's tall defenders missing the NAB Challenge, Clurey shone. Can he find a spot in their best 22? If so, jump on.

**Jarman Impey** - Plenty of hype surrounded Impey a month ago, after some uninspiring performances he may not be ready for senior footy just yet.

Robbie Gray - Don't be sucked in. Gray has let us down time and time again.

**Matthew Lobbe** - Lobbe ended 2013 his stellar fashion, with the long term injury of Redden he will undoubtedly be the side's sole ruckman. A unique choice if you're after something different.

**Jared Polec** - The former Lion has had a terrific pre-season, if you're looking for a cheap midfield option, Polec is one to strongly consider.

## **Notable injuries/suspensions:**

**Jackson Trengove** - Trengove is not relevant to our SuperCoach side's but if misses early matches with injury; it opens the door for Clurey, likewise for Alipate Carlile.

**Jarrad Redden** - Again Redden himself is not fantasy relevant, but his absence certainly makes Matthew Lobbe all the more appealing.





Words: Matt

# RICHMOND TIGERS



## **Pre-Season Report - Game 1:** Def by Melbourne, Game 2: Def Collingwood

The Tigers bounced back from a disappointing loss against the Demons, to smash the Magpies, with their star midfielders dominating.

### **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Trent Cotchin** - Cotchin took a step backwards last year, but expect him to take two steps forward this year. I think he can become one of the top players in the comp and he's underpriced, so definitely consider him.

**Brett Deledio** - a cheaper alternative to Cotch, but he's just as good. Will be far more unique than Cotch and if he learns how to break the tag he can post some big scores.

**Brandon Ellis** - he had a massive year in 2013 after his early season form slump, where he started as the sub or was subbed out four times in a row. He got subbed out one more time during the year, but when you take out these scores he averaged 99.2 (unsubbed). He's now massively underpriced.

**Shaun Hampson** - with Maric out expect Hampson to flourish as the number one ruckman. He's a good tap ruckman, so when he gets time in the middle he should score well.

**Dustin Martin** - retaining his fwd status, Martin must be considered as he's a ball magnet and kicks goals. Expect him to be one of the top forwards by year's end.

### **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Ben Lennon** - he'll miss out on the first few rounds, after having surgery on his knee. Could be a good cash cow later in the season, when he breaks into the side.

**Ivan Maric** - the Mullett will miss the start of the season, so Hampson will be the club's number one ruckman until he's back, which will probably be after round five.





Words: Schon

# ST.KILDA SAINTS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def by Western Bulldogs, Game 2: Def by GWS Giants

The general consensus around social media is that St.Kilda are in for a long season, and their NAB matches did nothing to suggest otherwise. They lost a scrap to the Dogs in the wet and were hammered by the Giants in what was a 'wake-up call'. The good side to this for us is that a young side means new, cheap rookies to pick and select for our SuperCoach sides.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Luke Dunstan** - The well-build youngster has all but secured his spot for the Saints' Round 1 match it would seem after two fairly impressive performances. Against the Giants he had 22 touches and a goal and will set you back only \$132k.

**Nick Riewoldt** - Lots wrote off Roo last year, and he responded with one best seasons of his career, considering the circumstances. What's to say he'll drop off massively this season? He'll still be the number one target up forward and he'll still be the inspirational skipper.

**Jarryn Geary** - After a career best year in 2013, Geary was given some midfield time during the NAB Challenge and is poised to improve on last season's average of 80. 17 touches (Bulldogs) and 20 touches (Giants) isn't outstanding, but perhaps an indication he's found the consistency which really hurt him last season.

**Shane Savage** - Savage came across from the Hawks looking for more midfield opportunity; and that's exactly what he'll get. Plenty of skill and a big work-rate (14 tackles and 8 inside 50s across both games) means that Savage is primed to breakout in 2014.

**Jimmy Webster** - The silky skilled lefty averaged 45 in his first season of 2013, and has begun 2014 in great fashion; being named in the best for both NAB Challenge games. He's certainly a left-field option and at \$240k an awkward price, but given the lack of defensive rookies is a genuine option.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Leigh Montagna** - Will miss Round 1 through suspension thanks to some misbehaviour last season.

**Jack Steven** - In what is a massive, no - monumental blow to the Saints, a foot injury will keep him out for up to 2 months. Ouch.

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Schon

# SYDNEY SWANS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def GWS, Game 2: Def by West Coast

The Swans fielded under-strength sides in both their NAB matches as they continue to use it as a measure to test their depth and not give anything away, as they do every year. The Eagles had too much class in NAB2.

## **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Jarrad McVeigh** - 21 touches and 70 SuperCoach points in his only outing isn't sensational, but this performance can only be seen as a genuine warm-up. Rested for NAB2 to ensure he's cherry-ripe for Round 1.

**Lance Franklin** - Only one NAB match and a very disappointing outcome - goalless against the Eagles. He is still fantasy relevant and hasn't missed a beat all pre-season; if you stick with him he could end up being in far less sides than he should be.

**Tom Mitchell** - 152 points in his 2014 opener locked himself immediately into many, many sides. He didn't play the second match and be careful of the second-year blues; he may be a jet but very few players escape it. Forward-eligibility helps his cause.

**Harry Cunningham** - Plenty of game-time in both matches, a few run-with roles and 7 tackles against the Eagles gives me the sense that Cunningham has a spot in the Swans' best 22. At only \$123k it doesn't matter if he's tagging, so long as he plays consistently.

**Gary Rohan** - Double figure possessions and five goals across both games is very promising signs for the exciting Swan. With forward rookies looking pretty slim he mightn't be a bad option.

## **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Luke Parker** - Copped a jab in the eye in the second match against the Eagles. Swans stated that he should be right for Round 1.

**Adam Goodes** - Another knee set-back in early February means that Goodes won't see any action in the first half of the season.

**Kurt Tippett** - After missing the entire first half of last season, Tippett will miss the start of the season again with a knee injury. However, Tippett is expected to return to action within the first month.

ROOKIE PRICE

ROOKIE PRICE





Words: Dylan

# WEST COAST EAGLES



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Defeated Fremantle, Game 2: Defeated Sydney

Adam Simpson couldn't have asked for a better start, as the eagles pulled off two impressive NAB Cup victories against top 4 sides from last year. Season 2013 was a year full of underachievement for the Eagles, and they need to take this form into the season proper with 4/4 winnable games to start.

## **Supercoach Relevant:**

**Matthew Priddis** - The reigning eagles best and fairest winner is the definition of consistency. For the past 5 seasons this no fuss footballer has averaged over 104SC points and has failed to go under 80 (2 concussions aside) in 3 seasons! The clearance machine played the one NAB Cup game against the Dockers, racking up 25 disposals, 6 clearances & whopping 9 tackles. You know exactly what your going to get with priddis.....**POD Premium!**

**Xavier Ellis** - The unlucky former hawk has had a horror run with injury, managing only 13 games in 3 seasons. He played both NAB Cup games and looked more than handy, gathering 21 possessions from 48% time against Fremantle and 23 possessions from 67% game time against the Swans. At \$159,100 Ellis is an absolute bargain and his price will soar up this season (although sub alert).... **LOCK.**

**Dom Sheed** - The 11<sup>th</sup> pick overall in the 2013 National Draft has all the makings of an AFL footballer. After an outstanding U18 Championships, where he captained WA and picked up the Larke Medal (best division 1 player) Sheed is ready to take his game to another level. He featured in both NAB Cup matches and looked relatively solid in both, gathering 17 & 15 disposals consecutively. Priced at \$167,300, Sheed presents us with some value. Certainly not a lock at this stage, but will feature early...**Strongly Consider.**

**Luke Shuey** - Shuey is one of the up and coming guns of the competition and is now entering his 5<sup>th</sup> year in the system. At 23 years old it is now time for Shuey to take his game to an elite level, especially with the retirement of Daniel Kerr. An injury interrupted 2013 prevented Shuey from reaching his full potential, but a strong pre-season has done him a world of good. In the game against Fremantle, he showed everyone just what he can do, with his pace burning the opposition to shreds. Has averaged over 100 before and can see him doing it again this year. \$489,300 isn't cheap, but it may prove to be a genius move.... **Consider.**

## **Notable injuries/Suspensions:**

**Beau Waters** - Has been a valuable option at times, but constant injuries means he is a no go player! Currently out recovering from shoulder surgery.





Words: Schon

## WESTERN BULLDOGS



**Pre-Season Report** - Game 1: Def St.Kilda, Game 2: Def by Fremantle

The Doggies would have been pretty happy with their NAB Challenge campaign. They slugged out a tough win in the soaked conditions against the Saints and fell to a very polished Fremantle outfit.

### **SuperCoach Relevant:**

**Matthew Boyd** - It was good to see Boyd remind everyone that he's still a force to be reckoned with at SuperCoach level. He got 27 touches in the wet against St.Kilda and 28 against the Dockers. He'll cost you \$560k, which is under-priced in my books.

**Adam Cooney** - The 2008 Brownlow Medalist returned to his best at patches last season, and has started 2014 in the same fashion. His NAB matches have been very good and as a point of difference you could do a lot worse.

**Tom Liberatore** - After a break-out season last year where he averaged 107, there's been a lot of love again for Little Libba. He amassed 156 SC points against St.Kilda in the wet in NAB1, showing he can go big when the going gets tough.

### **Notable injuries / Suspensions:**

**Robert Murphy** - Bob will miss the start of the season as he injured his elbow just before the NAB Challenge began.





## 2014 BYES

Round 8

Round 9

Round 10

