

# Talias are accused of finals leaking

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family. There's such a close-knit brethren and feeling amongst people. I'd hate to think that was broken."

The club's chief executive, David Stevenson, did not allege the information made a difference to the result of a tight final.

"The Western Bulldogs became aware on Monday 14 September of allegations of the inappropriate transmission of game-sensitive information from the Western Bulldogs to the Adelaide Crows prior to the final on 12 September," he said in a statement. "The club conducted such interviews and inquiries as we considered appropriate last week and as a result of those inquiries, the club has today referred the matter to the AFL for consideration by its integrity unit."

"While we do not believe this matter had a material bearing on the game or the result, we believe it is appropriate to report these matters relating to integrity to the AFL for investigation. The club does not consider it appropriate to make any further comment at this time." Adelaide's interim coach, Scott Camporeale, recently denied the Crows had received any information pertaining to the Bulldogs from an irregular pathway.

Meanwhile, West Coast are poised to field their strongest side of the season in Saturday night's preliminary final against North Melbourne in Perth after midfielder Matt Priddis declared himself 100 per cent fit.

Priddis was a late withdrawal against Hawthorn in the qualifying final with slight quadriceps soreness but has trained strongly this week and said yesterday he was ready to go.

In addition, Chris Masten (hamstring) is available to resume, while Luke Shuey (foot), Jeremy McGovern (shoulder) and Will Schofield (hamstring) should all retain their spots.

COURTNEY WALSH  
GREG DENHAM

# Goldstein the lone ruckman

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Ablett, Chris Judd, Matthew Pavlich and Adam Goodes used to earn selection in the side on a regular basis, Mitchell and the Adelaide champion Patrick Dangerfield are the most "experienced" of the 2015 honourees. It is the third time in their careers — Mitchell is in his 14th season and Dangerfield in his eighth — the duo has earned All Australian status.

The 11 inaugural All Australians are headed by Kennedy, who claimed the Coleman Medal for the first time and will spearhead the Eagles on Saturday night.

His teammate Priddis was also chosen in the team for the first time. Others debutants include Goldstein, Mundy, Jake Stringer, Eddie Betts, Gaff, Hurley, the Bulldogs' Easton Wood, Shaw and Gibson.

# Dons to maintain strong draft position

EXCLUSIVE

GREG DENHAM  
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

Essendon's new coach will have a strong foundation for the future after the Bombers declared they will keep their early national draft selections next month, both of which could be inside the top 10.

As it stands, the Bombers hold the fourth selection behind Carlton, Brisbane and Gold Coast and could also gain St Kilda's first pick for Jake Carlisle, which currently is selection No 5.

The Bombers have had only two top-10 national draft selections in the past five years — Dyson Heppell, who was the eighth overall pick in 2010, and father-son selection Joe Daniher, who was taken at pick eight in 2012.

Carlisle will nominate his club of choice when he returns from overseas, but at the moment the Saints are favoured to be his preferred club, with Essendon hoping the deal can be clinched with a straight swap for St Kilda's first draft pick.

However, the Saints' initial reaction is that their No 1 selection is

too high a price for Carlisle, whose highest best-and-fairest award finish was sixth to Brendon Goddard in 2013.

St Kilda have a far more financially attractive offer on the table for Carlisle, pending a medical check, than Carlton, who have explored the possibility of walking the out-of-contract key-position player through to the pre-season draft where no compensation for Essendon is required. While the Bombers have not completed their coach search, *The Australian* understands that West Coast premiership coach John Worsfold is warming to the prospect. It is

known that the Worsfold family would have no problem relocating to Melbourne, but not to Adelaide, where he is also being sought for a senior position, possibly even their vacant senior coaching role.

Worsfold has approached former premiership teammate Guy McKenna to be his right-hand man at Tullamarine, should he land the job.

*The Australian* can confirm another former premiership teammate and long-time Eagles coaching partner Peter Sumich has not been sounded out about a similar role by Worsfold, as has been reported.

McKenna, who coached Gold Coast in their first few years before being sacked late last year while under contract, said he would accept a lesser role with a Melbourne-based club.

Essendon are expecting to hear from Jake Melksham this week about whether he takes up a four-year \$1.6 million offer from Melbourne or stays with the Bombers. The Demons appear to be in front, particularly through his close relationship with coach-in-waiting Simon Goodwin.

By electing to keep their early picks, Essendon have ruled themselves out of any interest in Gold

Coast's Harley Bennell. The Dockers still head a list of interested clubs, followed by Richmond.

But Essendon remain well in the hunt for another ruckman after holding talks with Matthew Leuenberger and Zac Smith.

Carlton are showing keen interest in out-of-contract Richmond forward Ben Lennon, who has played 16 games in two years at Punt Road, including nine this year where he was a rising star nomination.

He was dropped for the Tigers' elimination final after playing in the previous eight home-and-away rounds.

The Blues are preparing to make him a much larger offer than what Richmond have so far placed on the table.

St Kilda have an interest in out-of-contract Collingwood player Nathan Freeman, who has yet to announce whether he wants to stay or explore other options. Freeman, the overall 10th selection in the 2013 national draft, has yet to play a senior game for the Pies due to a series of injuries.

Brisbane have told contracted player Sam Mayes he is required and are not prepared to entertain a trade for him to return home to Adelaide.



GETTY IMAGES

Nat Fyfe has played only three matches in the past eight weeks due to a leg injury but says he will be fine to play Hawthorn on Friday night

# Fyfe admits nagging leg injury a nuisance

COURTNEY WALSH

Brownlow Medal favourite Nat Fyfe has conceded his leg injury is a nuisance but is adamant it will have no impact on his performance in Friday night's preliminary final.

The AFL Players' Association's Most Valuable Player gathered 32 disposals in the Dockers' gritty qualifying final win over Sydney and is confident he will again perform strongly against the Hawthorn at Domain Stadium.

"It's been handy having the extra week," Fyfe said. "There was always going to be a little bit of a response from playing but I pulled up quite well, so I'm happy."

"Medically, I think it is similar to shin splints, but it's just in my

lower leg, in the fibula. It's a little bit of a nuisance, but I'll be fine."

The 24-year-old, who was last night named as the ruck rover in the All Australian side, admitted backing up for the grand final would prove a challenge should the Dockers defeat the Hawks.

"That's going to be a bit of a challenge but luckily we've got medical professionals who have considered all the options," he said.

"Should that happen, and hopefully it does, then we'll be ready to go again."

"No one is 100 per cent, but I'll be playing."

The Fremantle star has played only three matches in the past eight weeks due to the injury, initially caused by a corked thigh he received from another Brownlow fancie, Sam Mitchell, in round 15.

He has since battled inflammation of the left fibula, which caused him to miss the last two rounds of the season, costing him the AFL Coaches Award and also easing his favouritism in the Brownlow Medal.

"I guess I had such a fruitful start to the year without much injury concern, that there was always this possibility lingering," he said. "But I'm still out and playing and able to contribute, so it's not the worst case."

Jack Gunston did not appear at training yesterday but Hawthorn's general manager of football operations, Chris Fagan, said Gunston did some work elsewhere.

A decision on whether the Hawks gamble on fielding him will be made today.

"He ran today without doing

football skills. We will have a stronger idea (today)," Fagan said. The Hawthorn forward, who injured an ankle in the qualifying final loss against West Coast, remains hopeful of playing in the sudden-death final.

"I'm feeling a bit better and I definitely relished the week off and hopefully I can get up this week," Gunston told the Hawks' website.

"I'm confident in my mind. It's healing pretty well and it's healed a lot better over the last few days as well, so I'm hopeful that I'll play."

"I haven't really done too much running yet, so once I get that going I'm sure we'll be right."

"If everything goes well early on in the week, then I'm sure I'll make the trip over and just be ready to go and ready for a prelim, which is always exciting."

As per usual practice, the Hawks will stagger their travel across the Nullarbor over the next two days. Club leaders Luke Hodge, Jordan Lewis and Jarryd Roughead are among a group of about six players who will head across today, while the remainder will travel tomorrow.

With North Melbourne also in Perth for a preliminary final against West Coast on Saturday, the Hawks and Kangaroos will stay in separate hotels. The Hawks also made some logistical changes to their training ground at Waverley, bringing in the boundary by about five metres as Domain Stadium is more narrow but longer than the MCG.

Veteran defender Brian Lake and reserve ruckman Jonathon Ceglar were among those who trained.

## FOR THE RECORD

### American Football

NFL (home team in CAPS):

New York Jets 20 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS 7

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE**

**East**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New York Jets	2	0	0.000	51	17
New England Patriots	2	0	1.000	68	53
Miami Dolphins	1	1	0.500	37	33
Buffalo Bills	1	1	0.500	59	54

**North**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Cincinnati Bengals	2	0	1.000	57	32
Pittsburgh Steelers	1	1	0.500	64	46
Cleveland Browns	1	1	0.500	38	45
Baltimore Ravens	0	2	0.000	46	56

**South**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Tennessee Titans	1	1	0.500	56	42
Jacksonville Jaguars	1	1	0.500	32	40
Houston Texans	0	2	0.000	37	51
Indianapolis Colts	0	2	0.000	21	47

**West**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Denver Broncos	2	0	1.000	50	37
Kansas City Chiefs	1	1	0.500	51	51
San Diego Chargers	1	1	0.500	52	52
Oakland Raiders	1	1	0.500	50	46

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE**

**East**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Dallas Cowboys	2	0	1.000	47	36
Washington Redskins	1	1	0.500	34	27
New York Giants	0	2	0.000	46	51
Philadelphia Eagles	0	2	0.000	34	46

**North**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Green Bay Packers	2	0	1.000	58	40
Minnesota Vikings	1	1	0.500	29	36
Detroit Lions	0	2	0.000	44	59
Chicago Bears	0	2	0.000	46	79

**South**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Carolina Panthers	2	0	1.000	44	26
Atlanta Falcons	2	0	1.000	59	44
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1	1	0.500	40	61
New Orleans Saints	0	2	0.000	38	57

**West**

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Arizona Cardinals	2	0	1.000	79	42
San Francisco 49ers	1	1	0.500	38	46
St. Louis Rams	1	1	0.500	44	55
Seattle Seahawks	0	2	0.000	48	61

### Baseball

MAJOR LEAGUE

American League: (home team in caps): BOSTON RED SOX 8 Tampa Bay Rays 7; HOUSTON ASTROS 6 Los Angeles Angels 3; Chicago White Sox 3 DETROIT TIGERS 2; TORONTO BLUE JAYS 4 New York Yankees 2; Chicago White Sox 2 DETROIT TIGERS 0

**Eastern Division**

W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto Blue Jays	86	64	57.3
New York Yankees	82	67	55.0
Baltimore Orioles	73	76	49.0
Boston Red Sox	72	77	48.3
Tampa Bay Rays	72	78	48.0

**Central Division**

W	L	PCT	GB
Kansas City Royals	87	62	58.4
Minnesota Twins	76	73	51.0
Cleveland Indians	74	74	50.0
Chicago White Sox	72	78	48.0
Detroit Tigers	69	81	46.0

**Western Division**

W	L	PCT	GB
Texas Rangers	80	69	53.7
Houston Astros	80	71	53.0
Los Angeles Angels	76	74	50.7
Seattle Mariners	73	77	48.7
Oakland Athletics	64	86	42.7

**National League**: ST. LOUIS CARDINALS 2 Cincinnati Reds 1; NEW YORK METS 4 Atlanta Braves 0; Arizona Diamondbacks 8 LOS ANGELES DODGERS 4; CHICAGO CUBS 9 Milwaukee Brewers 5; Pittsburgh Pirates 9 COLORADO ROCKIES 3

**Eastern Division**

W	L	PCT	GB
New York Mets	85	65	56.7
Washington Nationals	78	71	52.3
Miami Marlins	64	86	42.7
Atlanta Braves	60	91	39.7
Philadelphia Phillies	56	94	37.3

**Central Division**

W	L	PCT	GB
St. Louis Cardinals	94	56	62.7
Pittsburgh Pirates	90	60	60.0
Chicago Cubs	88	62	58.7
Cincinnati Reds	63	86	42.3
Milwaukee Brewers	63	87	42.0

### Rugby League

**Western Division**

W	Lost	PCT	GB
Los Angeles Dodgers	85	64	57.0
San Francisco Giants	78	71	52.3
Arizona Diamondbacks	72	78	48.0
San Diego Padres	70	80	46.7
Colorado Rockies	63	87	42.0

### Rugby Union

**NRL FINALS TEAMS (all times local):**

**BRISBANE SYDNEY ROOSTERS**  
Friday at Suncorp Stadium, 7.55pm  
**BRONCOS:** Darius Boyd, Corey Oates, Jack Reed, Justin Hodges (c), Jordan Kahu, Anthony Milford, Ben Hunt, Sam Thaiday, Andrew McCullough, Adam Blair, Alex Glenn, Matt Gillett, Corey Parker. **INTERCHANGE:** James Wallace, Mitchell Dooks, Joe O'Haregan, Kodi Nikorima.  
**ROOSTERS:** Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Daniel Tupou, Michael Jennings, Blake Ferguson, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, James Makoua, Mitchell Pearce (c), Sam Moea, Jake Friend (c), Dylan Napa, Mitchell Aubusson, Aidan Guerra, Boyd Cordner. **INTERCHANGE:** Jackson Hastings, Isaac Lu, Kane Evans, Sio Siua Tauleaia.

**MELBOURNE v NORTH QUEENSLAND**  
Saturday at AAMI Park, 7.40pm  
**STORM:** Cameron Munster, Marika Karobete, Will Chambers, Kurt Mann, Matt Duffie, Blake Green, Cooper Cronk, Jesse Brownich, Cameron Smith (c), Tim Glasby, Kevin Proctor, Tobu Harris, Ryan Hitchcliffe. **INTERCHANGE:** Kenny Bromwich, Dale Finucane, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Jordan McLean, Christian Welch, Dayne Weston (two to be omitted).  
**COWBOYS:** Lachlan Coote, Kyle Feldt, Justin O'Neill, Kane Linnet, Antonio Winterstein, Mitchell Morgan, Jonathan Thurston (c), Matthew Scott (c), Jake Granville, James Tamou, Gavin Cooper, Ethan Lowe, Jason Taumalolo. **INTERCHANGE:** Rory Kordjaryn, John Asitia, Scott Bolton, Ben Hamant, Ray Thompson (one to be omitted).

### Soccer

**WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA v FIJI SQUADS**

**Australia:** Israel Folau, Rob Home, Tevita Kuridrani, Matt Gleeson, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Bernard Foley, Will Genia, David Pocock, Michael Hooper, Scott Fardy, Rob Simmons, Kane Douglas, Skelton Kepu, Stephen Moore (capt), Scott Sio, Res. James Slipper, Greg Haines, Taniela Polosa-Nua, Will Shelton, Dean Murrin, Nick Phipps, Matt Toomua, Kurtley Beke, Fijian: Metuisela Talebulu, Waisea Nuyacalevu, Veneniki Goneva, Gabriel Lovolobalu, Nemani Nadolo, Ben Volavola, Nikola Matavala, Netani Talei, Akapusi Qera (capt), Pesei Yano, Leone Nakarawa, Tevita Cavubati, Momoa Suka, Tupaia Talematalaga, Campese Ma'afa, Res. Vilisame Velokso, Peni Ravai, Isei Colati, Nemani Soqeta, Malaki Ravulu, Nemani Keratela, Joshua Matavesi, Aseli Tikotrotuana.

### Olympics Squad

Mustafa Anini (Randers FC, Denmark), Josh Brillante (Calcio Como, Italy), Cameron Burgess (Fulham FC, England), Mikos Degeen (1860 Munich, Germany), James Donachie (Brisbane Roar), Kenneth Dougal (Sparta Rotterdam, Netherlands), Jack Duncan (gk) (Randers FC, Denmark), Ryan Edwards (uncontracted), Giancarlo Galluccio (Swansea FC, England), Scott Gallaway (Melbourne Victory FC), Jason Geria (Melbourne Victory FC), Aaron Lemox (gk) (uncontracted), Andrew Hoode (Sydney FC), Chris Ikonomidis (SS Lazio, Italy), Jackson Irvine (Ross County, Scotland), Paul Izzo (gk) (Central Coast Mariners), Christopher Naumoff (Sydney FC), Connor Pain (Melbourne Victory FC), Brad Smith (uncontracted), Adam Tiggart (Fulham FC, England), Steven Yegorov (NK Osijek, Croatia), Ryan Williams (Barnsley, England), Kwame Yeboah (Borussia Monchengladbach II, Germany).

### Tennis

**ATP MONTECARLO (Metz)**  
**Round 1:** (pre-filip denotes seeding): Gilles Muller (LUX) vs Aljaz Bedene (GBR) 6-3, 6-4.  
**ATP ST. PETERSBURG (St. Petersburg)**  
**Round 1:** (pre-filip denotes seeding): Andreas Haider-Mauer (AUT) vs Daniel Gimeno (ESP) 7-5, 7-6(2).

# Sonny Bill off the bench key to Cup: Fitzpatrick

Sean Fitzpatrick believes the impact of Sonny Bill Williams from the bench could be the key to the All Blacks successfully defending their Rugby World Cup crown.

Steve Hansen's side were given a tough time by Argentina at Wembley on Sunday before coming from 16-12 down in the second half to win 26-16.

The introduction of Williams in the 46th minute in place of a sub-standard Ma'a Nonu gave the All Blacks some much-needed spark. And despite playing less than half a game the former NRL star already tops the tournament off-loads chart with five.

"What really pleased me was the bench," Fitzpatrick, a former great New Zealand captain, said. "They wanted to give Sonny Bill a run and although he hasn't played very much rugby he came on and had 35 fantastic minutes and was probably the player of the day."

"He pretty much changed the shape of the game." Williams' performance has led to speculation he may take Nonu's place in the side but Fitzpatrick believes the Hurricanes star has enough credit in the bank to keep his spot.

"Ma'a Nonu is the incumbent and rightly so," he said. "He is the

best 12 in world rugby ... world class.

"It's a 23-man game now and they are all going to have an input. That is the difference between the All Blacks and the other teams. They have players who can come on and make a difference.

"Sonny Bill came on and made a difference, Beauden Barrett came on at 15 and made a difference. They have multiple ways of playing and that is what you need for different opponents."

The former captain and veteran of three World Cups, believes Argentina provided the best possible test and was pleased with what he saw from Hansen's side.

"I thought New Zealand played well but Argentina were quite outstanding for the first 60 minutes," Fitzpatrick said.

"But in addition to Sonny Bill, Wyatt Crockett and Charlie Faumuina came on and were also outstanding in terms of ball carrying. "I think in this World Cup you need 15 ball carriers and that is something the All Blacks have got unlike many other teams.

"I liked their composure. Not many teams could have lived with the Argentines in terms of the way they were playing and come out with a good result."

# Genia to grasp the moment in shadow of Father Time

WAYNE SMITH  
RUGBY UNION

It would be nice if the Will Genia of today could go back in time to 2011 and tell himself a few home truths, but he can't, of course, no one can. So instead he passed on his good advice to Scott Sio.

The two Wallabies were chatting recently, Genia a 60-Test veteran, Sio a novice of only 10, both of them remarking how lucky they were to be playing in a Rugby World Cup. In Genia's case, he's done it all before, in 2011, but somehow it all sped by, and like so many good times it was blithely taken for granted.

"When I look back, you kind of just went through the tournament as another series of games, which is a good thing but also a bad thing because you don't grasp the moment," Genia recalled. "Because you don't want to think too much about the games and overthink things and try to do too much, but at the same time you want to make the most of it. Don't let it slip by. It's not just another game. Because you don't know if you'll be here four years later."

As it happens