Talias are accused Dons to maintain strong draft position 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 bro-

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.

Goldstein the

COURTNEY WALSH

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

GREG DENHAM AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

EXCLUSIVE

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

SPORT

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 an-

other former premiership teammate and long-time Eagles coaching partner Peter Sumich has not been sounded out about a similar role by Worsfold, as has

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 fouryear \$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 Rich-

mond forward Ben Lennon, who has played 16 games in two years at Punt Road, including nine this year where he was a rising star

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

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 outof-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

DOCKERS

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 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

"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

"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 fancy, 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

"But I'm still out and playing and able to contribute, so it's not

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, re-

mains 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'

"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,

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 Waverlev, 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

FOR THE RECORD

American Football

NFL (home team in CA						
New York Jets 20 INDL						
AMERICAN FOO East	TBAL W	L (OS T	NFER PCT		
New York Jets	2	0	0	1.000	51	1
New England Patriots	2	0	0	1.000	68	5
Miami Dolphins	1	1	0	0.500		
Buffalo Bills	1	1	0	0.500	59	5
North	w	L	T	PCT		P/
Cincinnati Bengals	2	0	0	1.000	57	3
Pittsburgh Steelers	1	1	0	0.500	64	4
Cleveland Browns	1	1	0	0.500		4:
Baltimore Ravens	0	2	0	0.000	46	
South	w	Ĺ	T	PCT		
Tennessee Titans	1	1	0	0.500		4
Jacksonville Jaguars	1	1	0	0.500		
Houston Texans	0	2	0	0.000		
Indianapolis Colts	0	2	0	0.000		4
West	w	Ĺ	T	PCT		Ρ/
Denver Broncos	2	0	0	1.000	50	3
Kansas City Chiefs	1	1	0	0.500	51	5
San Diego Chargers	1	1	0	0.500	52	5
Oakland Raiders	1	1	0	0.500	50	6
NATIONAL FOO	TRAI I	r. C	'n			TE.
East	W	L	T	PCT		P/
Dallas Cowboys	2	0	0	1.000	47	3
Washington Redskins	1	1	0	0.500	34	2
New York Giants	0	2	0	0.000	46	5
Philadelphia Eagles	0	2	0	0.000	34	4
North	W	L	T	PCT	PF	P
Green Bay Packers	2	0	0	1.000	58	4
Minnesota Vikings	1	1	0	0.500	29	3
Detroit Lions	0	2	0	0.000	44	5
Chicago Bears	0	2	0	0.000	46	7
	W	L	Т	PCT	PF	P/
South	vv	L		PUI	PF	17
South Carolina Panthers	2	0	0	1.000	44	2

Baseball

New Orleans Saints West

Arizona Cardinals

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

Eastern Division				
	Won	Lost	PCT	G
Toronto Blue Jays	86	64	.573	
New York Yankees	82	67	.550	3.
Baltimore Orioles	73	76	.490	12.
Boston Red Sox	72	77	.483	13.
Tampa Bay Rays	72	78	.480	14.

Tampa Day Kays	12	70	.400	1-
Central Division				
	Won	Lost	PCT	G
Kansas City Royals	87	62	.584	
Minnesota Twins	76	73	.510	11
Cleveland Indians	74	74	.500	12
Chicago White Sox	72	78	.480	15
Detroit Tigers	69	81	.460	18

Won Lost PCT GB 69 .537 71 .530 Houston Astros Los Angeles Angels Seattle Mariners 74 .507 77 .487 Oakland Athletics 64 86 .427 16.5

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 Milwauke ROCKIES 3

	Won	Lost	PCT
New York Mets	85	65	.567
Washington Nationals	78	71	.523
Miami Marlins	64	86	.427
Atlanta Braves	60	91	.397
Philadelphia Phillies	56	94	.373

Won Lost PCT GB 56 .627 -60 .600 4.0 St. Louis Cardinals Pittsburgh Pirates Chicago Cubs Cincinnati Reds 62 .587 86 .423 Milwaukee Brewers .420 31.0

	Won	Lost	PCT	GB	
Los Angeles Dodgers	85	64	.570	-	
San Francisco Giants	78	71	.523	7.0	
Arizona Diamondbacks	72	78	.480	13.5	
San Diego Padres	70	80	.467	15.5	
Colorado Rockies	63	87	.420	22.5	

Rugby League

NRL FINALS TEAMS (all times local): BRISBANE v 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

ROOSTERS: Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Daniel Tupou Michael Jennings, Blake Ferguson, Shaun Kenny Dowall, James Maloney, Mitchell Pearce (c), Sam Moa Jake Friend (c), Dylan Napa, Mitchell Aubusson, Aidan Guerra, Boyd Cordner. Interchange: Jackson Hastings. Isaac Liu, Kane Evans, Sio Siua Taukeiaho

MELBOURNE v NORTH OUEENSLAND

Saturday at AAMI Park, 7.40pm STORNI: Cameron Munster, Marika Koroibete, Will Chambers, Kurt Mann, Matt Duffie, Blake Green, Cooper Cronk, Jesse Bromwich, Cameron Smith , Tim Glasby, Kevin Proctor, Tohu Harris, Ryar Hinchcliffe. 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 Linnett, Antonio Winterstein, Michael Morgan, Johnathan Thurston (c), Matthew Scott (c), Jake Granville, James Tamou, Gavin Cooper, Ethan Lowe, Jason Taumalolo. Interchange: Rory Kostjasyn, John Asiata, Scott Bolton, Ben Hannant,

Rugby Union

AUSTRALIA v FIJI SQUADS Australia: Israel Folau, Rob Horne, Tevita Kuridran Matt Giteau, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Bernard Foley, Will Genia, David Pocock, Michael Hooper, Scott Fardy, Rob Simmons, Kane Douglas, Sekope Kepu, Stephen Moore (capt), Scott Sio. Res: James Slipper Greg Holmes, Tatafu Polota-Nau, Will Skelton, Dean Mumm, Nick Phipps, Matt Toomua, Kurtley Beale. Fiji: Metuisela Talebula, Waisea Nayacalevu, Vereniki Goneva, Gabiriele Lovobalavu, Nemani Nadolo, Ben Volavola Nikola Matawalu Netani Talei Akanusi Oera (capt), Peceli Yato, Leone Nakarawa, Tevita Cavubat Manasa Saulo, Tuapati Talemaitoga, Campese Ma'afu. Res: Viliame Veikoso, Peni Ravai, Isei Colati, Nemia

Soccer

Matavesi Aseli Tikoirotuma

Soqeta, Malakai Ravulo, Nemia Kenatale, Joshua

Mustafa Amini (Randers FC, Denmark), Josh Brillante (Calcio Como, Italy), Cameron Burgess (Fulham FC, England), Milos Degenek (1860 Munich, Germany), James Donachie (Brisbane Roar), Kenneth Dougall (Sparta Rotterdam, Netherlands), Jack Duncan (gk) (Randers FC, Denmark), Ryan Edwards ntracted), Giancarlo Gallifuoco (Swansea FC England), Scott Galloway (Melbourne Victory FC), Jason Geria (Melbourne Victory FC), Aaron Lenno 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 Taggart (Fulham FC, England), Steven Ugarkovic (NK Osijek, Croatia), Ryan Williams (Barnsley, England), Kwame Yeboah (Borussia Monchengladbach II, Germany).

Tennis

ATP MOSELLE OPEN (Metz)

(LUX) bt Aljaz Bedene (GBR) 6-3 6-4. ATP ST PETERSBURG OPEN (St Petersburg)

Maurer (AUT) bt 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 substandard 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 offloads chart with five.

"What really pleased me was the bench," Fitzpatrick, a former great New Zealand captain, said.

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

'They wanted to give Sonny

"He pretty much changed the shape of the game.'

his spot

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

"Ma'a Nonu is the incumbent and rightly so," he said. "He is the best 12 in world rugby ... world

"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 out-

standing for the first 60 minutes," Fitzpatrick said "But in addition to Sonny Bill, Wyatt Crockett and Charlie Faumuina came on and were also out-

standing 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.

WAYNE SMITH

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. În 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, Genia is here, which explains his happy grin. Yet many were the times when that prospect, World Cup selection, looked gravely in doubt. Four



Halfback Will Genia

years ago, he was considered the best halfback in the game, a man even the All Blacks studied, but how quickly the planets realigned. He was named captain of the Wallabies team to play the Springboks in Perth in September 2012 but fell awkwardly after catching a high ball and badly damaged a knee.

It wasn't until the following year, against the British and Irish Lions, that he was fit to return to the Wallabies, turning on a master class in the first Test in Brisbane as he teamed with Israel Folau for a try that announced to the rugby world the arrival of the super winger, as he was at that stage, but also trumpeted the return of the chamnion nine. It was about the last happy football memory Genia would have in Brisbane. The

RUGBY WORLD CUP **ONLINE**

Genia to grasp the moment in shadow of Father Time

For an interactive guide to the tournament, with every team, every player and every match – plus Wayne Smith live blogging the Wallabies v Fiji game − go to www.theaustralian. com.au/sport

Queensland Reds were descending from the heights at an alarming rate. With Quade Cooper regularly injured, Genia struggled with a succession of five-eighths and began either overplaying or, curiously, underplaying his hand.

An ankle injury intervened adding to his troubles in 2014, and then, after playing just 40 minutes of his first Test start in 18 months, against the Springboks at Suncorp Stadium in July, his right knee caved in again.

Getting injured and needing further surgery six weeks out from the selection of the World Cup never felt himself under pressure.

team would surely have tested Genia's faith. Yet he insists he "The only thing I could control at the time was my rehab," he said.

"I was told you've got six weeks to get yourself all right, that takes you up to the USA game. So if everything tracks well, let's see how we go. And obviously how the boys

performed against the All Blacks.' Long-time Genia observers would rate that as his nightmare scenario, finding himself at the mercy of the rugby gods, having no say. But he put his faith in "Cheik, Bernie and Grevsie", better known as the Wallabies coaches Michael Cheika, Steve Larkham and Nathan Grey, and they didn't let him down. Not only has he been named in the World Cup squad but he has been chosen at halfback in the opening Test against Fiji to-

night in Cardiff He feels far better prepared for this World Cup than the last one, in which Robbie Deans held sway. "If I look back on 2011, we didn't have a really specific plan about how we wanted to go about things, as far as preparation and just little things to focus on," said Genia.

"Whereas preparation this time around we've left no stone unturned. The detail is there, everything has been done. Everyone has worked hard, beyond hard, to make sure that we're ready physically and mentally. That's one of the big differences.'

Genia is hoping that difference translates into wins for the Wallabies but backs coach Larkham senses the Reds halfback wants more. "I think he has just been waiting for this for a long time," said Lar-

kham. "He was obviously disappointed with our results in the last World Cup, certainly disappointed with the way the Wallabies have been perceived. He's desperate to make sure this is a successful campaign for us. I think he has been

building towards this point." Genia acknowledges that's true. "I think this is a really good opportunity for us, on the biggest stage of them all, to make the country proud and bring back those fans who have drifted away from the game. It will go a long way to gaining some respect back.

"For me. I've been around for a little while and it hurts every time guys kick you when you're down and bag you. For us, and me personally, it's a long way towards gaining some credibility back for the side and what the Wallabies brand represents.

Even though he now has the necessary 60 caps to qualify for Test selection even when he heads to Stade Français in November, chances are in a post-World Cup year that Cheika will opt to groom a whole new generation next year, possibly starting with Melbourne

Rebels halfback Nick Stirzaker. So this could be Genia's last chance. And as he told Sio, he doesn't intend wasting it.

Biggest stage set for Folau to make mark

Continued From Page 36

Though they have changed their hooker, substituting Tuapatu Tatemaitoga for Sunia Koto, the two props who so troubled England on the weekend, Campese Ma'afu, brother of former Wallabies prop Salesi Ma'afu, and Manasa Saulo remain in place. And they will give Australia a scrummaging battle like Fiji has never mounted before. The Fijian back division re-

mains intact and it was clear that as the match went on against England, former Waratah Volavola was finding ways of bringing Nadolo, the Crusaders battering ram more and more into play. He is certain to hit the midfield

with increasing frequency and Matt Giteau, who is outweighed by nearly 40kg, can expect some neavy duty tackling

So far in this tournament not a single field goal has been kicked, or even attempted, and while Bernard Foley won't be thinking of one, it might not hurt Larkham who famously kicked the only field goal of his life to beat the Springboks in the 1999 World Cup semifinal — to remind him that they are worth three points if the Fijians make this a fight, as everyone is ex-