

## Third time lucky for Goldstein

IT was third time lucky for Todd Goldstein with his first North Melbourne best and fairest award.

The AFL's dominant ruckman, beaten one vote in each of the past two seasons, made certain it was his moment with a resounding victory last night.

The Kangaroos also announced last night that tough midfielder Jack Ziebell would be a Kangaroo for life.

Ziebell, 24, agreed to a five-year contract extension that keeps him at North Melbourne until the end of 2021.

Versatile Sam Wright, 25, has also been rewarded with a two-year contract extension.

Goldstein polled 283 votes to beat midfielder Ben Cuntington by a whopping 38 votes, with forward Shaun Higgins three further back in third place.

■ **COLLINGWOOD** captain Scott Pendlebury, who signed a four-year contract extension yesterday, has secured his place among the Magpie immortals, winning a fourth Copeland Trophy.

The 27-year-old midfielder joined the legendary Bob Rose on four club best-and-fairest awards, with only Brownlow medallists Nathan Buckley (six) and Len Thompson (five) having won more.

Pendlebury polled 169 votes to make it four wins from the past five seasons.

He beat fellow midfielder Dane Swan – who has three best and fairests awards to his name – by 49 votes.

■ **RETIRING** Sydney Swans legend Adam Goodes was hailed as an inspiration for his work in eradicating racism and domestic violence by coach John Longmire at the club's annual awards night, at which Josh Kennedy scooped the top prizes.

Goodes, who was at the centre of the booing controversies by rival AFL crowds this year, failed to poll in the top 10 of the club championship but was the man of the night despite Kennedy's impressive Bob Skilton medal win for player of the year.

■ **WEST** Coast midfielder Andrew Gaff has capped his finest season with his first John Worsfold Medal, upsetting Brownlow Medal runner-up Matt Priddis.

Gaff, who was named All-Australian for the first time this year, polled 210 votes to win by four votes from Priddis.



MADE MARK: Todd Goldstein easily won the Roos' best and fairest award. Picture: GETTY IMAGES

# Currie set for a place in Suns

MICHAEL WARNER & TOM BOSWELL

NORTH Melbourne ruckman Daniel Currie is headed for the Gold Coast.

Currie yesterday nominated the Suns as his desired destination where he will share the ruck duties with Tom Nicholls.

The deal will involve a late draft pick, with Suns ruckman Zac Smith likely to end up at Geelong.

The 201cm tall has been starved of opportunity at Arden St, stuck behind Kangaroos tall Todd Goldstein, who is considered one of the AFL's premier ruckmen.

North Melbourne are keen for Currie to stay but just as the Gold Coast is with Smith, will not stand in the way of the 26-year-old getting more opportunity at the highest level.

Meanwhile, former Gold Coast Suns NEAFL coach Josh Fraser said the lure of helping shape the list at Carlton was a key factor in his decision to join the club.

Fraser has joined the Blues and will coach the club's VFL affiliate Northern Blues next year after two seasons at the helm of the Suns' NEAFL side.

He will also act as a development coach for Carlton.

The 33-year-old said his desire to mould Carlton's young players and draftees as well as work with new AFL coach Brendon Bolton attracted him to the role.

"The young talent that comes through spends a lot of time in the reserves and I'm



ON THE WAY: Daniel Currie will share duties with Tom Nicholls.

going to have a good handle on those guys," Fraser said.

"That's what I'm passionate about, working with young players coming through and trying to develop them into AFL players.

"It is going to be a big job but that's exciting and I'm looking forward to sinking my teeth into that and building something that is sustainable and successful at VFL level.

"I was also impressed with the coaching panel they have assembled, so being able to work with a young coaching group who have all got some experience as well is going to be exciting. It's a move that made sense and it's a good fit."

Fraser said he made the decision to move to Melbourne for family reasons and despite attracting interest from a number of clubs, he was firm on his decision to join Carlton.

Carlton's head of football Andrew McKay backed Fraser to find success at the club.

"Josh is a terrific fit for our team as he shares our strong commitment to a team-first approach," McKay said.

## Pyke to impart own style on Crows

DON Pyke will start his chapter at the Adelaide Football Club with his own theme rather than be burdened by the Phil Walsh legacy.

Pyke, 46, has declared his Crows will be known for "total football" built on three qualities – contested ball, ball movement and team defence.

The West Coast premier-ship player says he will respect the Walsh legacy of "team first" and "elite standards".

"But it is time to move on," said Pyke, who follows Walsh after the tragedy of his death



MOVING ON: Don Pyke.

on July 3, just 10 months into his club-changing tenure.

"There are a lot of good

things at the footy club ... a lot of these things were started by Phil. Unfortunately, he will not see that through.

"My challenge is to come in and work with the things that are good and try to identify the things we can still improve."

Pyke played 132 games with West Coast in the 1980s-90s.

He starts his first AFL senior coaching job by returning to the Crows where he was assistant coach to Neil Craig in 2005-06. He has a three-year starting contract.

- MICHELANGELO RUCCI

## Dockers chase Giants forward

FREMANTLE'S desperation to finally snare a key forward has them willing to hand over their first-round picks in the next two drafts for GWS goalkicker Cam McCarthy.

McCarthy's manager Colin Young yesterday claimed the Dockers were so keen on McCarthy they would make the too-good-to-refuse offer when the AFL trade period opened on Monday.

Fremantle have been screaming out for offensive key position talent for years, trying and failing to lure the

likes of Travis Cloke, Lance Franklin and Tom Hawkins.

With skipper Matthew Pavlich contemplating retirement, the Dockers this year made plays for the Gold Coast's Charlie Dixon and Port Adelaide's Jay Schulz.

Young said the Giants would find the Dockers' offer hard to resist.

"Fremantle will come out in the next few days and they're going to give GWS their first-round (pick) this year and their first-round next year ... 100 per cent," Young said.

"If GWS need those first-round picks and players at the end of the trade period, they may well do it."

McCarthy kicked 35 goals this year, with 29 coming in the first 12 rounds.

GWS coach Leon Cameron has stated the Giants won't be trading McCarthy, with the fledgling club wanting to keep its players rather than acquire more draft picks.

McCarthy is contracted at the NSW club for another two years.

- SAM EDMUND