



Goddard commits to Saints

BRENDON Goddard has reaffirmed his commitment to St Kilda, saying he wants to help take the Saints forward. Goddard, 26, is out of contract at the end of 2012 and many believe securing him is Greater Western Sydney's No. 1 priority in its second uncontracted player signing period. "When that time comes I'll address that issue," Goddard said. "I'm happy at St Kilda. I'm a contracted player and I want to be at the footy club and take the club forward."



Eagles have taste for battle

WEST Coast insists it does not feel it has over-achieved this AFL season and it is hungry for another premiership. Before its preliminary final against Geelong at the MCG today senior assistant coach Peter Sumich dismissed the suggestion the Eagles, which claimed the wooden spoon last season, might be vulnerable. "I don't believe in that, I believe our blokes are mentally strong and really looking forward to the contest," Sumich said.



Brownlow triple treat

THE announcement triple Brownlow medallist Bobby Skilton will present the medal – or medals – on Monday night has sparked talk of conspiracy. Former St Kilda captain Danny Frawley believes Carlton's Chris Judd and Sydney's Adam Goodes will tie for the medal, making them triple winners alongside Skilton and Ian Stewart. AFL chief Andrew Demetriou added to the speculation yesterday when he suggested the best result would be a tie between Judd and Goodes.

Hockey juniors on a roll

TERRITORY hockey young guns will be out in force in the next two weeks when the under-15 and under-13 teams trek across the country to compete in the national titles.

The under-15 girls' team starts its tournament today in Sydney against New South Wales.

The under-15 boys then travel to Melbourne next Saturday to meet Victoria in round 1.

Our youngest stars will light up the national stage for the first time when the under-13 teams make their debut next Saturday.

The girls side will play ACT in its first match in Alice Springs.

The under-13 boys travel to Tweed Heads to take on South Australia in their debut, also next Saturday.

Inaugural under-13 girls side: Shaylah Barba, Madlen Bree Jones, Lilly Wosomo, Angela Heath, Ellen Bourke-Hawken, Serena Dunbar (vc), Nicole Whatley, Laura Simon, Courtney Knowler (vc), Marissa Higgins, Georgia Graf, Emily Stephenson, Natalie Strawhorn (c), Isabelle Porter, Amy Conca, Kayley Boye, Nikki Glennon.

Coach: Doreen Walton.

Under-13 boys: Joseph Baronio, Jayden Bucklar, Thomas Callaghan, Aaron Chin, Jerem Gesch, Monty Hill, Nathan Hochman, Callum Hourigan, Sam Johnson Sam, Dominic Kay, Alex Kilburn, Joshua MacDonald, Joshua May, Jaideen McGregor, Lucas Schmitt, Ben Shenton, Ryan Shenton, Tyler Spry, Lachlan Walter, Connor Wright.

Coach: Sam Spry.

NT reps star on PNG tour

THE Affiliated States Australian senior rugby league team started its tour of Papua New Guinea with a 36-24 win over the Police Rugby League Australian side on Thursday.

Territorians starred in the win, with Palmerston premiership forward Jarrod Sultana scoring two tries.

Brothers fullback Rodney Barba scored a brilliant solo try and Nightcliff's Jesse Maclean added to the carnage with a try of his own.

The Affiliated States will play an emerging Kumuls team in Lae on Sunday.

Scoreboard - Affiliated States 36 (Jarrod Sultana (NT) 2, Scott Jones (WA), Rodney Barba (NT), Darren Kingi (VIC), Jesse Maclean (NT) tries. Scott Jones (WA) 3, Darren Kingi (VIC) goals) **d Police Rugby League Australia 24** (Danny McMahon 2, Shannon Hargraves, Michael Fortier, Leo Clark, Leo Clark, John Borland goals).

Thunder geared up for desert storm



Cameron Ilett, second from left, and his NT Thunder teammates will be hoping to celebrate another victory tonight

Picture: JUSTIN SANSON

NEAFL GRAND FINAL								
NT THUNDER V MORNINGSIDE								
THUNDER		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL		(PTS)
THUNDER		4.3	9.10	15.16	26.22	178		
PANTHERS		5.3	7.6	10.7	12.8	80		
#	Player Name	DSP	HO	SM	TKL	SHP	SPL	G
47	Anderson, J	20	0	0	3	1	3	0
22	Bergman, D	12	0	0	2	2	2	0
17	Dignan, J	35	0	3	2	0	0	0
2	Ewing, D	13	0	0	1	0	0	3
27	Farrer, W	17	0	1	1	0	0	5
16	Ilett, C	26	0	0	7	0	0	2
6	Ilett, J	16	0	1	3	0	0	1
25	Kossack, W	19	0	0	3	2	3	0
10	Maher, C	18	0	0	2	0	0	1
23	McLeod, A	26	0	0	3	0	0	4
1	Motlop, A	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Palipuaminni, B	14	0	0	3	0	0	1
49	Rioli, S	12	0	0	1	0	0	1
39	Roberts, C	7	0	0	1	0	1	1
29	Roe, J	22	0	0	1	0	5	0
15	Rosier, M	16	0	0	2	1	0	1
7	Rusca, S	15	0	0	3	1	2	0
45	Smith, R	4	12	0	2	2	1	0
11	Tapp, S	11	0	0	1	2	12	0
14	Tungatalum, R	17	0	0	1	1	0	5
8	Tyrell, K	12	33	0	2	0	1	1
4	Vellejo, I	18	0	0	2	0	1	0
20	Watson, J	14	0	0	2	2	0	0
Northern Territory F.C		380	45	5	48	14	31	26

FOOTBALL By JESS WEBSTER

TERRITORY Thunder premiership captain Cameron Ilett has one more box to tick before season's end.

The Grogan medallist wants to put Thunder's dismal performances in the Red Centre behind them against Ainslie in tonight's NEAFL inter-conference grand final at Traeger Park.

NT's second home hasn't been a happy hunting ground compared to Darwin and this season has produced two wins from four games.

But the Northern Conference winners want to give Centralian football fans the performance they deserve at 6pm tonight.

"Any time we play a home game in Darwin or Alice Springs we want to keep that winning record," Ilett said.

"Unfortunately, we haven't got the best record in Alice but if we can win a grand final there it would be pretty special. These opportunities don't come around very often.

"I know the playing group is very excited and looking forward to taking on Ainslie and seeing who the better team is.



There are a few guys that are still a bit sore but mentally they are right to go. The players are really proud to wear the Territory jumper. It's history again . . . so there is a fair bit at stake

"To win the inaugural NEAFL Cup would be special but also for this playing group too, to cap off such a successful year would be a great effort and for the guys that will get an opportunity this week — for them to feel a part of it as well is very important to us."

Karl Lohde, Minahan medallist Louis Egger, Dean Staunton and Nyaburu Kelly all come into the NT squad while Cameron Roberts (calf) and Jed Anderson (hamstring) are the only forced changes.

With Katherine's Will Kossack the only other Thunder player under an injury cloud, coach Murray Davis concedes the Territory team's selection

headaches will continue right through to end of the season.

"I think that's been the strength of our team this year, we've got great depth," he said.

"There are a few guys that are still a bit sore but mentally they are right to go.

"The players are really proud to wear the Territory jumper. It's history again . . . so there is a fair bit at stake.

"Ainslie are quite similar to Morningside.

"They are a fairly strong-bodied, hard-running side and like to get numbers back behind the ball.

"We don't have to change too much up, we will just approach the game the same way as we did last weekend."