



2008 NAB AFL Rising Star

North Hobart Junior Football Club to benefit from Colin Garland's 2008 NAB AFL Rising Star Nomination

Former North Hobart junior and Round 14 NAB AFL Rising Star nominee, Colin Garland, from the Melbourne Football Club has earned North Hobart Football Club a NAB Club Recognition Award, which will be presented to the club this Sunday 7 September.

The grass roots initiative created by NAB aims to recognise the junior clubs that helped foster the early careers of nominated AFL players. NAB will present each of the 22 clubs with a NAB Club Recognition Award, a package of practical and financial resources designed to assist them in developing future champions.

The packs, which consist of \$1500, seven Sherrin training footballs, 12 water bottles and water bottle carrying rack, a mesh ball carry bag, AFL training manual and DVD will all assist the club's training resources. A framed presentation piece featuring the nominated player will also be included to remind kids that with a little confidence, dreams can be achieved.

Local NAB representative Tessa Cason says the NAB AFL Rising Star exists to support grassroots players and football communities and helps young Australians fulfil their dream of playing in the AFL.

“The NAB Club Recognition Award is a fantastic initiative that provides each nominee with an opportunity to acknowledge the important role junior clubs play in the early stages of development, while also providing local clubs, communities and media with a chance to congratulate nominated players,” Miss Cason said.

The 20-year-old defender has been composed under pressure and shown versatility in the backline, competing against some of the biggest names in the game including Lance Franklin, Nick Riewoldt, Alan Didak and Daniel Bradshaw.

From North Hobart, Garland had a rapid rise through junior ranks to represent Tasmania in the 2006 NAB AFL Under 18 Championships. He was selection 46 in the 2006 NAB AFL Draft.

Garland is Melbourne's third nomination this season with Austin Wonaeamirri and Cale Morton also receiving nominations.

Melbourne coach Dean Bailey said Colin has shown maturity beyond his years.

“Colin has played a number of roles this season, playing on both tall and smalls in the backline, after initially beginning the year in the forward line.

“Col has shown great improvement over the year and has gained invaluable experience against some of the best forwards in the competition.

“He'll only continue to get better over the course of the year.”

Following each round of the home and away season, a panel of judges will select a NAB AFL Rising Star nominee and at the completion of the season one of these nominees will be chosen as the 2008 NAB AFL Rising Star.

The 2008 NAB AFL Rising Star will receive a personal investment folio and a dedicated personal banker, courtesy of the National Australia Bank.

Ends

For further press information contact:

Steve Cox

Elite Sports Properties

T: 03 9421 3000

F: 03 9421 3300

M: 0423 298 665

E: scox@elitesports.com.au