

BigFooty.com

Annual 2011



North Melbourne Kangaroos

A comprehensive review of players
from the 2011 AFL Premiership Season

[Created by fans, for fans.](#)

Dedicated to [Shane Lidgerwood](#) – a passionate Shinboner.

Please distribute this freely in its original, unaltered form.

The *BigFooty Annual* is provided free of charge by [BigFooty.com](http://www.bigfooty.com) and its contributing members from the [BigFooty NMFC Forum](#).

Reproduction of content within this *Annual* or distribution in any form other than this PDF is by permission only:

<http://www.bigfooty.com/forum/sendmessage.php>

Photography

Updates

Keep up to date with the latest on North Melbourne players in the [NMFC Player Watch Board](#) on [BigFooty.com](http://www.bigfooty.com).



Table of Contents

Leigh Adams - #13	6
Liam Anthony - #4	7
Shaun Atley - #18	9
Ryan Bastinac - #28	10
Aaron Black - #35	11
Matt Campbell - #33	12
Ben Cunnington - #10	13
Majak Daw (R) - #38.....	14
Cameron Delaney - #31.....	15
Luke Delaney (R) - #45	16
Aaron Edwards - #27.....	17
Michael Firrito - #11.....	18
Cruize Garlett - #32	19
Todd Goldstein - #22.....	20
Levi Greenwood - #24	22
Nathan Grima - #17.....	23
Lachlan Hansen - #6	24
Kieran Harper - #23	25
Brent Harvey - #29	26
Ayden Kennedy - #36	26
Ed Lower - #2	28
Ben Mabon - #40.....	28
Jamie MacMillan - #34	30
Hamish McIntosh - #1	30
Ben McKinley - #26	32
Scott McMahan - #42	34
Aaron Mullett (R) - #41	36
Brayden Norris - #37	37
Cameron Pedersen (R) - #39	38
Drew Petrie - #20	38

Daniel Pratt - #30	40
Brady Rawlings - #3	41
Cameron Richardson - #21	43
Ben Ross - #15	44
Matthew Scott (R) - #44	45
Benjamin Speight - #46	45
Andrew Swallow - #9	46
Robbie Tarrant - #25	47
Lindsay Thomas - #12	48
Scott Thompson - #16	50
Gavin Urquhart - #14	51
Ben Warren - #5	53
Daniel Wells - #8	54
Marcus White (R) - #43	55
Samuel Wright - #19	57
Jack Ziebell - #7	58
The Back Page	59

Leigh Adams - #13

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: April 6, 1988

H 176

W 78

2011

Games 21

Goals 16

Supercoach 1764 points (\$397,900) (-\$17,000)

Dream Team 1649 points (\$318,800) (-\$19,800)

Affectionately known as "Patch", and not much bigger than one, Leigh Adams is another one of North Melbourne's little known diamonds in the rough. One of the most underrated players in the AFL, Adams played 21 games in 2011 and was one of North's most important players. Tougher than old boots and with a fierce determination and drive, Adams was ranked 5th at North for disposals, 7th for total goals, 4th for tackles, 6th for clearances, 6th for marks & 5th for I50s, statistics which would generally be those of a much better known player. However, internally Adams is rated very highly and would be in the first few picked every week.

A heart condition picked up late in 2010 may have dampened the spirits of a lesser man, but a short time after [heart surgery](#), Adams was back on the training track on a modified program, preparing for a 2011 that lived up to the expectations of North supporters.

Adams' disposal highs came in Rounds 22 & 8, picking up 28 touches against Fremantle and Melbourne. His toughness at the ball and the man has never been more evident than late in 2010, when after being collected by Beau Waters in Round 1 against West Coast. Already groggy after the original hit, Adams went off for treatment only to come back on a short time later. Shortly after returning to the field, Adams was again injured. At this point he left the game, but not without collecting 18 touches & 2 goals in North's narrow loss.

Adams should look forward to an uninterrupted 2012. He is without a doubt one of the most important players on North's list and from being the under 18 Metro captain to North's rookie list, to a ruptured ACL & eventually his rightful place in North Melbourne's midfield, the journey of Leigh Adams is far from over.

Liam Anthony - #4

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: September 9, 1987

Height: 189cm

Weight: 84kg

2011

Games: 13

Goals: 9

Supercoach: \$289,300 (919 points, **-\$73,600**)

Dream Team: \$263,400 (994 points, **-\$92,200**)

"Hollywood" Anthony burst onto the scene as a mature-age recruit that nobody else had heard of except for North's ace recruiting team. Taken at pick 43 in the 2008 draft alongside Jack Ziebell, Sam Wright & the now delisted Nathan O'Keefe & Warren Benjamin, it's fair to say that LA had the best of his draft mates early on in their careers. Sizzling form in '09 (an astounding average of 25.6 touches a game and early Rising Star favouritism, despite being ineligible for the award) and '10 (23.1 touches & 6 marks a game) had every North fan thinking that Anthony would step it up a notch with a further year under his belt and more AFL experience. That was before Travis Cloke interfered, dislocating LA's shoulder with the help of the MCG turf on a cold night against the Pies.

LA required a shoulder reconstruction. He sat out the remainder of the 2010 season as North Melbourne, missing key players like Drew Petrie already, missed the finals by the barest of margins. Quietly pumping away in the gym, LA began plotting his return. A tough and hard off season saw LA ready to go by Round 1 of 2011, and North fans eagerly awaited the return of the hard-running, ball-winning possession merchant. It was, however, a different LA that suited up against West Coast, then Collingwood. Perhaps fear, perhaps trepidation and a lingering doubt about his shoulder played a part, but the courageous LA seemed dormant. He wasn't hitting packs as hard and he wasn't imposing himself on contests. The whispers grew.

LA was dropped by Coach Brad Scott for rounds 8 & 9. He destroyed the VFL competition, murdering and pillaging those unfortunate enough to get in his way. He forced himself back into the team for Rounds 10 through 16, but his best contribution in those rounds was a 26-disposal, 8-mark, 2-goal effort against Adelaide in North's 115-68 victory. He followed this up with 21 touches of the pill against the hapless Gold Coast, piling on his own 3 goals in the 60-odd point win to North. Noticeably, however, LA was shanking kicks like never before, and his 69% disposal efficiency over the year (along with an average of 2 clangers a game) was the catalyst for much discussion about LA's place in the team.

LA drew comparisons to Essendon's Brent Stanton, with one North supporter labelling him North's version of the much-maligned Bomber. Opinions seemed to flutter between LA's worth to the team

being decreased due to his mental barriers about hard contact (something he had admitted in an interview earlier in 2011) and his increasingly woeful disposal efficiency, or his addition to the team on a wing and being allowed to run free being something that North desperately needed.

In the end, LA was dropped after managing just 4 touches in the unspeakable loss to Collingwood. Seriously, that's all I'll say about it. LA didn't manage another game for the season after Round 16.

From all reports and pictures, LA is looking bigger than ever, having added more muscle to protect those shoulders of his. As all the boys are, disposal efficiency and a general sharpening up of the skills MUST be a focus during the pre-season - especially for LA. It is worth noting that if he gets his body right, and the confidence issues, disposal issues and general match smarts come together - LA could be a serious chance for the 2012 Rising Star award. I'm pretty sure he's eligible.

Shaun Atley - #18

By [Chog](#)

D.O.B: 13/9/1992

Height: 189cm

Weight: 81kg

Drafted: Pick 17, 2010 National Draft

2011 Games: 16

2011 Goals: 3

Supercoach: 715 points; \$194,700 (+\$86,100)

Dreamteam: 720 points; \$161,200 (+\$64,700)

North Melbourne was ecstatic to pick highly-rated midfielder, Shaun Atley, with its first pick in the 2010 National Draft, as he was expected to be taken much higher by another club. Shaun is a gifted athlete and was twice runner-up in State Level Hurdles. He was also named in the 2010 NAB All-Australian team for the Under-18 Championships. Recruited from the Murray Bushrangers, Shaun's explosive speed and evasiveness in contested situations were valuable assets that North Melbourne's coaching staff was hopeful of bringing into their young side. A strong pre-season ensured he was selected for a round-one debut against West Coast in Perth, in which he gathered 13 possessions in a tight shoot-out at Paterson's Stadium.

Shaun continued his solid form and was rewarded by playing the first 13 rounds of the season. His best games came against Gold Coast, Geelong, Essendon and Port Adelaide, playing as an outside midfielder in the centre and as a line-breaking player on the wing. Due to soreness and a minor knee injury he could only manage 16 AFL games, but played at VFL level for the North Ballarat Roosters, and was mentioned in the best players several times. During games, his elite acceleration, excellent agility and clean hands became a trademark and were a critical component of North Melbourne's emerging midfield in 2011. His damaging style of play around packs will be eagerly anticipated by the club and supporters in 2012. Shaun is also not afraid to back himself in one on one situations, an asset rarely seen in young players, and 2011 has seen him side-step, baulk and outrun seasoned AFL players, which has supporters on the edge of their seats.

Shaun will be looking to improve his disposal by foot in 2012, as he occasionally tended to mistime kicks and miss targets; however he will certainly not be alone in this area at North. At only 19 years of age, Shaun has plenty of football ahead of him and will look to add size and strength to his 189cm frame. Another strong pre-season will also build his fitness base and improve Shaun's ability to run out games.

Off the field, Shaun has adjusted well to AFL life and has been light-heartedly nicknamed 'Humphrey' by teammates, due to his tendency to not say much. All the best to Shaun in 2012 and beyond.



Ryan Bastinac - #28

By [Chog](#)

D.O.B: 22/6/1991

Height: 184cm

Weight: 76kg

Drafted: Pick 21, 2009 National Draft

2011

Games: 12

Goals: 3

Supercoach: \$308,200 (-\$35,100)

Dreamteam: \$258,000 (-14,000)

After an impressive debut season in 2010, in which he played every game, earned a rising star nomination, and won North Melbourne's best first year player award, Ryan Bastinac looked set for another big year in 2011. He was training well in the pre-season before he landed awkwardly in a training drill and suffered a lateral meniscus tear in his right knee. Despite Basti's importance to the North midfield, the club opted for him to have surgery and a longer recovery, rather than take a shorter approach and risk further damage.

A silver lining came in this injury, as Ryan was given the opportunity to spend his recovery in the gym at Aegis Park, and add size and strength to his upper body. Finally he reappeared in the royal blue and white in round 12 against the Gold Coast, boasting a bigger frame from his 4 months of recovery. He showed he had not lost his elite endurance from 2010, collecting 25 disposals against the AFL's newcomers. Coupled with Levi Greenwood's reappearance after a foot injury, Ryan demonstrated his importance to the North Melbourne midfield as the team went about resurrecting a poor start to the season. Basti played most of the remaining games in 2011, averaging 19.5 disposals and missing only round 21.

The silky-skilled midfielder had his best games against Brisbane and Fremantle, collecting 29 possessions and 2 goals, and 25 possessions respectively. Supporters were reminded of why the club was so excited about Ryan, and why they will be shattered if he joins GWS, as he displayed his trademark hard running across the ground that enabled him to win countless clearances as well as giving the North side much-needed run. His added bulk enabled him to play as an inside or outside midfielder, and his first-class disposal by hand or either foot was a welcome addition to a side lacking polish.

It was always going to be difficult to make inroads after his injury and extensive time-off, but Ryan should be pleased with his output and contribution to North in the latter half of 2011. All the best to Basti in the coming years.

Aaron Black - #35

DOB: 29-11-1990

Height: 192cm

Weight: 82kg

2011 Games: 1

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: \$110,200

Dream Team: \$97,600

Every draft there's a bolter that comes from the clouds to firm as a first round pick. That bolter in the 2009 draft was Aaron Black, with many predicting him to be a top 10-15 selection (Emma Quayle predicting him to go 12th)

Surprisingly after slipping a bit, North snatched him up at pick 25, the draft pick acquired for Josh Gibson.

In his prime, Aaron has a great vertical leap (70cm, which is pretty huge), is quick for a man his size (ran the 20m in 3.03cm, which is very quick for someone his size) and is a great kick (with a 22/30 in Buckley's kicking test at the draft camp)

Unfortunately, this potential has not come to fruition in his first 2 years at the club, due to a shocking series of injuries to his pubic bone, back and adductor, where he was quoted a being "unable to walk" such was the pain.

Blacky came into the North Ballarat side in April 2011, and stamped his authority with 4 goals in his first match. As he worked his way up to something close to full fitness, his output and consistency increased, and he ended the VFL season with 31 goals.

Aaron was rewarded with a start in the Round24 match against Richmond, and started very impressively kicking a goal and setting one up in a powerful first half display. However, his lack of fitness (due in part to not having completed a full pre-season) kicked in, and he was eventually subbed.

That said, his steady progress throughout the season has surely excited Kangas fans, with the prospect of an agile, footy-smart, strong marking and accurate goal kicking CHF being part of the new era of North youngsters.

The key for Aaron's development will be getting a good fitness base over the pre-season, and putting on some serious muscle to his lightly built frame. If he can do that, he'll be a viable option playing as Drew Petrie's understudy for the season ahead. It's great that Brad Scott and his coaching staff have placed their faith in Aaron, and here's hoping he can repay that trust in spades.

Matt Campbell - #33

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 21/01/87

Height: 170cm

Weight: 71kg

Drafted: Round 3, Pick #34 2006 Rookie Draft

2011

Games: 8

Goals: 8

Dreamteam: \$280,100 (-12,500) (Avg - 49.1)

Supercoach: \$213,500 (-5,800) (Avg - 52.6)

What looked to be a promising year for the guy known as Flash by his teammates, Matt Campbell only managed the 8 games for season 2011. Matt unfortunately pulled a bad hamstring in a pre-season practice game against the Bulldogs. Due to Matt's history of hamstring related injuries, North Melbourne went on the side of caution with his recovery. He didn't make it back into the side until round 16, he played the remaining 8 games for North Melbourne.

The two games that Matt played well were round 17 against the Bulldogs in which he kicked 3 goals and round 20 against Hawthorn kicking 5 goals and receiving 1 Brownlow vote. Although in the other games Matt looked relatively quiet, he moved like he didn't have any restrictions and still shows that quickness about him that makes opposition defenders nervous.

With a bit of luck injury free wise, I hope Matt can it make back into the side from the start of the 2012 season. At 24 years of age, Matt's best football is still in front of him. With his pace, goal sense and accurate set shot kicking, Matt provides North Melbourne as a dangerous player for the opposition.

Ben Cunnington - #10

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 30/06/1991

Height: 185cm

Weight: 86 kg

Drafted: 2009 with pick 5

2011

Games - 16

Goals – 4

Dreamteam – \$197,400(-\$30,100)

Supercoach - \$232,900(-\$24,200)

A highly rated junior footballer, Ben Cunnington attacked his preseason training for the 2011 season with vigour after a disappointing first season at AFL level. Unfortunately for Ben, and in a repeat of his first preseason at the club, Cunnington suffered an injury that would see him sidelined for the vast majority for the off season. Injuring his knee on the teams preseason camp in Utah a severely underdone Cunnington resumed training just weeks before the start of the 2011 AFL season.

Selected for the first six rounds of the season, Cunnington had minimal impact on games and his lack of preparation saw him either used as the substitute or substituted in many of these games. Like his young team mate Jack Ziebell, Cunnington was criticised in the media for his poor condition, but unlike Ziebell, Cunnington had little to no fitness base to build on. When dropped to North Ballarat Cunnington's class was evident with him appearing in their bests more often than not and regularly racking up big numbers in the midfield against his VFL opponents.

Playing predominantly as a midfielder with stints in defence, Cunnington showed his trademark hardness at man and ball, a good ability to play in the air and as the season progressed an ability to be an effective extractor and distributor of the ball, this last trait no more obvious than in the last game of the season against Richmond where he went head to head with Trent Cotchin and more than held his own.

Silken by hand and increasingly neat by foot, Cunnington looms as an integral part of the North midfield brigade with his ability to get the hard ball and distribute cleanly to team mates running past. A classic inside midfielder, Cunnington is currently working hard on North's preseason camp in Utah to develop a fitness base that will allow him to increase his impact on games. If this occurs expect Cunnington to announce himself on the AFL stage in season 2012.

Season highlights for Cunnington were his 20 disposal game against the Lions in round 9 and his 22 disposal, 9 tackle game against the Tigers in round 22.

Majak Daw (R) - #38

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 11th March 1991

H: 195

W: 94

2011

Games 0

Goals 0

Supercoach 0 points (\$103,600) (+0)

Dream Team 0 points (\$92,500) (+0)

It's no secret that Majak Daw is the best-known rookie in the AFL. Some would call it an indisputable fact. Drafted in 2009 onto the rookie list from the Western Jets, Daw has remained on the list for the 2010 & 2011 seasons, and was retained for the 2012 season.

Daw's history is well-documented. The Sudanese refugee began playing the game at age 14 for the Wyndhamvale Falcons in the WRFL, and quickly rose through the ranks of junior football due to incredible athleticism and a willingness to learn and improve himself. Hauls like [this one](#) ensured that the big ruckman, while very obviously a project player, was always going to be on club's radars when the draft came around. North Melbourne took a punt on Daw and in doing so, created history - becoming the first Sudanese player to be on an AFL list.

After being drafted, Daw immediately went to work on his fitness, skills & furthering his learning of the game. A quick Youtube search reveals a startling number of unbelievable highlights at VFL level, including [scything runs through the middle of the ground](#), [numerous bounces](#), and [expert finishes from beyond 50](#).

Daw is being groomed as a ruckman/key forward, in the Drew Petrie mould. His outstanding performances at VFL level suggest that there is plenty to work with. There are countless observers of the game who are extremely keen to see Daw in a North Melbourne jumper in the season proper, none more excited than the BigFooty Supporters Group, who sponsor Majak. 2012 is the last year that Daw can be retained on the rookie list.

Off the ground and the training track, Daw has impressed all and sundry with his respectful, humble attitude and fierce dedication to bettering himself, most notably displayed by his [rejecting of the Queen's invitation](#), instead flying to Utah for the club's 2011 pre-season camp.

By all reports, Daw is improving in every aspect of his football. Recent videos and media from the pre-season camp in Utah suggest that Daw is extremely popular amongst his team-mates, who are all as hopeful as the general footballing public that Daw eventually finds himself in the big time, creating history for the AFL, the Sudanese community and North Melbourne.

Cameron Delaney - #31

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 19th June, 1992

Height: 194cm

Weight: 82kg

2011 Games: 0

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: \$103,600 (0 points, +\$0)

Dream Team: \$92,500 (0 points, +\$0)

Cameron Delaney will be keen to carve out his own reputation and emerge from the widening shadow of his brother. Drafted at the auspicious Pick 69 in the 2010 National Draft, 2011 was very much a development year for Cameron. Playing for North Ballarat in the VFL, Cameron no doubt experienced senior football first hand after coming off successful stints with Vic Country & Geelong Falcons. Cameron arrived early in Utah along with several other players including his brother, a terrific sign of dedication.

Cameron is, [in the eyes of recruiters](#), a tall defender with a surprising leg speed for his size, plus the agility to match. Can and will win the ball for himself. He is a rangy type with good closing speed and was a Vic Country representative in the 2010 NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, managing 42 disposals at 66.9% effectiveness in five games.

Best of luck to Mini Keys and the Keys family going forward, in 2012 and beyond.

Luke Delaney (R) - #45

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 24 June 1989

H: 194

W: 97

2011

Games: 8

Goals: 0

Supercoach: 438 points (\$208,600) (+105,000)

Dream Team: 322 points (\$150,600) (+\$58,100)

Luke Delaney was drafted in 2008 by North Melbourne and onto their rookie list, from Michael Turner's "Football Factory" at the Geelong Falcons. After a shoulder reconstruction in 2010, Delaney pressed his claims for senior selection throughout the early rounds of 2011, and after switching his VFL affiliate from Werribee to North Ballarat, citing more opportunities, he made his debut in Round 9 of 2011 against Brisbane.

Delaney was thrust right into the fire, immediately matched up against Brisbane's man mountain Jonathan Brown, and acquitted himself excellently, keeping the giant Brown to 13 touches. Although Brown kicked 4 goals and the Lions won narrowly, Delaney won himself a myriad of fans for his display of defensive pressure.

Delaney kept his spot for a further 8 games in the 2011 season and is widely considered to be one of North Melbourne's leading candidates for a key defensive post. The addition of his younger brother Cameron to the list and Luke's early arrival in Utah for the club's 2011 pre-season training camp indicates that he will do everything possible to make his time at the club successful.

Best of luck to Car Keys and the Keys family for 2012 and beyond.

Aaron Edwards - #27

By [Stan Darsh](#)

D.O.B: 2/3/1984

Height: 184cm

Weight: 88kg

Drafted: Pick No.82, 2006 National Draft

2011 Games: 19

Goals: 36

Supercoach: \$250,700 (-\$84,000)

Dreamteam: \$226,500 (-\$63,300)

After two trips to Perth and a deplorable 3 touch performance against Collingwood in between to start the season, it seemed the increasingly tatted up Edwards would be one of those players confined to being too superior for his second tier compatriots, but not quite able to mix it up in the top level beyond patchy performances.

Kicking a haul of 10 in the VFL, Edwards forced Brad Scott's hand in including him in the Round 8 clash against the Demons. The medium tall put in a fine display, underlying his love for the conditionally domesticated Etihad ground by picking up 16 touches, 10 marks and 6 goals in a shooting display fit for a 2002 Sacramento Kings roster spot.

Although his sticky hands and accurate set shot weren't something North Melbourne fans were unfamiliar with regarding Aaron, his new found determination, work rate and relationship with Drew Petrie was what had them optimistically intrigued by what the deep forward line would look like in the ensuing games. The following week in a blustery, rainy evening at the GABBA Edwards was faced with conditions that would typically eliminate him from being a factor in the match. However, with the new found work rate he was able to put in an admirably solid performance, contributing 3 goals despite his greatest assets being heavily distorted due to inclement weather.

Following a dominating performance where Edwards racked up his most possessions in a game (19) against the Gold Coast in Round 12, his set shot stats resembled my high schooling dating life - no misses. (or missus in my case) 22 goals and a poultry 2 behinds, he was firmly on Dwayne Russell's radar and entrenched in the North Melbourne 21.

Edwards finished top 20 in both marks and goals for the 2011 AFL season, playing less games than all but two players in either category. He was also the second most accurate shooter in the competition with a strike rate of 82%.

From forays deep in the forward line extending to the nose bleedingly foreign trips to halfback, Aaron displayed the acumen needed to be a modern day forward. Putting past indiscretions and season derailing injuries aside, he signed a well deserved 1 year deal ending at the end of 2012. With a greater fitness base after another preseason it shouldn't surprise if 'Azza' Edwards earns a few more contracts at NMFC.

Michael Firrito - #11

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 06/03/1989

Height: 174cm

Weight: 74 kg

Drafted: 2007 rookie draft

2011

Games - 9

Goals – 2

Dreamteam – \$152,700 (+\$30,200)

Supercoach - \$194,900 (+\$10,000)

The diminutive midfielder worked hard on his fitness over the course of the pre-season and was selected for the first four rounds of the season after performing strongly in pre-season practice matches where he ran through the midfield collecting possessions at will. Garlett performed reasonably well at AFL level, including 12 touches in a quarter against Fremantle in round 3, before being sent back to the reserves to work on his fitness and repeat efforts after not quite emulating his pre-season form.

In his first game at VFL level for the year Garlett collected 37 possessions and 2 goals in a close loss to Collingwood and he backed this up with 31 touches and 8 clearances the following week, indicating that he was too good for the VFL. He was promptly recalled to the senior side for the round 8 clash with Melbourne and held his spot for one more game against Brisbane where he again was used as the sub and had only 13% game time.

Garlett was dropped the following week and missed 10 games in a row at AFL level despite producing excellent performances at VFL level and having a number of team mates in the seniors who were not performing in the midfield. Averaging close to 30 touches a game for North Ballarat playing as an inside midfielder for most of the VFL season, Garlett was recalled for 3 more games late in the year, where he again acquitted himself well despite limited game time.

Garlett possess attributes that coach Brad Scott rates highly. An ability to move well in traffic is combined with the best 'inside hands' at the club, according to the coach. Garlett was held back in 2011 by the fact that he was not quite fit enough to spread from contests at AFL level for a full game, and because North are now blessed with a plethora of developing midfielders with an ability to play in congestion. This has not stopped Garlett from returning to pre-season training in the best condition of his career, both physically and aerobically. Hopefully for Cruize this extra fitness will allow him to transfer his VFL output to the AFL. If that occurs then North will have another potential top line midfielder to add to the rotations.

Cruise Garlett - #32

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 06/03/1989

Height: 174cm

Weight: 74 kg

Drafted: 2007 rookie draft

2011

Games - 9

Goals – 2

Dreamteam – \$152,700 (+\$30,200)

Supercoach - \$194,900 (+\$10,000)

The diminutive midfielder worked hard on his fitness over the course of the pre-season and was selected for the first four rounds of the season after performing strongly in pre-season practice matches where he ran through the midfield collecting possessions at will. Garlett performed reasonably well at AFL level, including 12 touches in a quarter against Fremantle in round 3, before being sent back to the reserves to work on his fitness and repeat efforts after not quite emulating his pre-season form.

In his first game at VFL level for the year Garlett collected 37 possessions and 2 goals in a close loss to Collingwood and he backed this up with 31 touches and 8 clearances the following week, indicating that he was too good for the VFL. He was promptly recalled to the senior side for the round 8 clash with Melbourne and held his spot for one more game against Brisbane where he again was used as the sub and had only 13% game time.

Garlett was dropped the following week and missed 10 games in a row at AFL level despite producing excellent performances at VFL level and having a number of team mates in the seniors who were not performing in the midfield. Averaging close to 30 touches a game for North Ballarat playing as an inside midfielder for most of the VFL season, Garlett was recalled for 3 more games late in the year, where he again acquitted himself well despite limited game time.

Garlett possess attributes that coach Brad Scott rates highly. An ability to move well in traffic is combined with the best 'inside hands' at the club, according to the coach. Garlett was held back in 2011 by the fact that he was not quite fit enough to spread from contests at AFL level for a full game, and because North are now blessed with a plethora of developing midfielders with an ability to play in congestion. This has not stopped Garlett from returning to pre-season training in the best condition of his career, both physically and aerobically. Hopefully for Cruise this extra fitness will allow him to transfer his VFL output to the AFL. If that occurs then North will have another potential top line midfielder to add to the rotations.

Todd Goldstein - #22

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 01/07/1988

Height: 201cm

Weight: 102 kg

Drafted: 2006 with pick 37

2011

Games - 21

Goals – 13

Dreamteam – \$369,100(+\$58,200)

Supercoach - \$492,000(+\$172,000)

After a highly promising 2010 big things were expected from Todd Goldstein heading into the 2011 season. With the departure of David Hale to Hawthorn it was expected that Goldstein would be provided with greater opportunity to develop at AFL level. However, unexpected injuries to North's other big man, Hamish McIntosh, ensured that Goldstein would be furnished with greater responsibility than first thought and would either prosper or perish under the mantle of number one ruck at the NMFC. Thankfully for North Goldy took the opportunity with both hands and went from being one of the most promising young big men in the competition to one of the best big men in his own right.

Armed with elite endurance, fantastic spacial awareness, a willingness to compete for the ball on the ground and the agility and pace of a smaller man, the left handed Goldstein took all before him in season 2011 and is adjudged to have been desperately unlucky to not receive his first All-Australian jersey after being named in the extended squad. Often playing close to 100% game time, Goldstein almost single handedly carried the ruck load for North throughout season 2011 and provided great assistance to his midfielders with his ability to tap to advantage and to win clearances from congestion in his own right. Goldstein also showed an ability to become a forward target, kicking 13 goals for the season, and also to fill space in the back line to intercept opposition attacks. Combined with excellent skills for a big man, these attributes make Goldy a huge asset for the NMFC.

Finishing the season with 741 hitouts, the second most in the history of the game for a single season, Goldstein is now regarded as one of the premier ruckmen in the competition, along with luminaries such as Dean Cox and Aaron Sandilands. In 2012 Goldstein shall receive support from a recovered McIntosh and will have the opportunity to increase his impact on the scoreboard with more opportunities to play forward on the cards.

Goldstein polled well in the Syd Barker medal and polled 6 Brownlow Medal votes. Season highlights include 26 disposals, 6 marks, 30 hitouts and 2 goals in Rd 8, and 22 disposals, 7 marks, 35 hitouts and a goal in Rd 6.

Levi Greenwood - #24

By [Kimbo](#)

DOB: 19/02/1989

Height: 181cm

Weight: 85 kg

Drafted: 2007 with pick 32

2011

Games – 13 (of 41)

Goals – 3 (of 8)

Dreamteam – \$223,200 (- \$71,600)

Supercoach - \$243,500 (- \$67,800)

Just as he had done in 2010, Levi Greenwood suffered an injury on the eve of the 2011 season. While playing in the NAB Cup against Geelong, Greenwood suffered a badly sprained ankle after an opposition player fell across his leg. He also suffered a scare when returning to footy via the VFL, when the same thing happened, aggravating the injury. In the end, after three matches for Werribee, Levi eventually kicked off his 2011 season in Round 10, against Sydney.

He played all remaining matches until Rd 24, which he missed as a result of a one-game suspension. His enforced lay-off, however, led to an inconsistent and disappointing season for North fans who held high hopes after Levi's 39 disposal game against Melbourne in Rd 22, 2010. He averaged only 15.5 touches in his 13 games in 2011. His better games in 2011 were against Essendon (Rd 13, 20 disposals, 7 tackles, 5 ISOs), Port Adelaide (Rd 14, 19 disposals, 4 tackles and 2 goals), and Fremantle (Rd 22, 21 disposals, 4 ISOs).

Known as one of North's best gut runners and fiercest competitors, Levi is said to be one of the coach's favourites. Certainly fans see something of Brad Scott about him. His style and toughness also draws comparisons with the likes of Anthony Stevens, and even Glenn Archer. Convinced of the team's premiership possibilities, Greenwood re-signed with North during the year, (to beyond 2012, taking him out of GWS' grasp).

Greenwood is seen as an important cog in the engine room for North, providing a stronger, mature body and having a high work rate. He is vital, structurally, in supporting the likes of Swallow and Ziebell, and in feeding the ball outside. On the downside, Levi's disposal efficiency in 2011 (62%) was queried this year as part of the team's overall poor disposal efficiency (69%)

With another year's experience under his belt and a full and uninterrupted pre-season – he is already a fitness front runner on the team's Utah trip - expect to see Levi rebuild his numbers and grow his reputation in 2012.

Nathan Grima - #17

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: August 5, 1985

Height: 192cm

Weight: 94kg

2011 Games: 12 **Supercoach:** \$271,500 (772, **-\$171,600**)

2011 Goals: 0 **Dream Team:** \$207,900 (637, **-\$82,800**)

2010 was a big year for Nathan Grima. He earned himself a reputation as North Melbourne's best key defender for the "gorillas" of the AFL, earned himself the title of North Melbourne's MVP from some football watchers, averaged the most disposals of his career and most importantly got absolutely nowhere near the Reverse Coleman leaderboards. Unfortunately, it also set the bar extremely high. His 17 games averaged 18.1 disposals - great numbers for a fullback - along with almost 6 marks & only conceding 10 free kicks for the entire year. It was undoubtedly a big year.

But back it up just a second. Grima is a great story. Drafted in the 2007 Rookie Draft, Grima didn't debut until 2009. He [ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament](#) at training in January 2008 and missed the entire year. Many thought that was it for the rookie listed player, but North's list management staff kept Grima on the list, helped him through his rehabilitation period and eventually, Grima repaid the faith with his debut coming in 2009. However, his tenacity and determination, and a great amount of sheer hard work earned him fans the AFL over, complimenting his blindness to anything other than his goal of playing in the AFL.

Persistent back issues dogged his pre-season training camp in Utah in the off-season of 2010, & required surgery over the new year. 6 weeks off and no running or skills work saw him start a long way behind the others. Grima missed round 1, and was close to North's best against a rampant Collingwood. Things were slowly improving until the gap between Rounds 8 & 9 - Grima broke a pinky finger at training on the Thursday and was forced onto the injury list for a further 5 weeks. His next outing was against Essendon - a win for North in Round 13 and 11 touches for Grima. He steadily improved in Rounds 14 & 15, before niggling back issues forced him out for an extended period - returning eventually in Round 22 before playing the final two games of the season.

Grima never really got going. After his stellar 2010, big things were expected and due to the body not being able to hold up, the big things were never delivered. Through no fault of his own, Grima had a fairly disappointing 2011, when compared to his previous efforts. He is still an integral part of North's backline, probably the most important piece of the puzzle, and when firing is capable of stopping even the most daunting of opposition forwards. His leadership qualities and fierce competitive nature typify that of a backman, and North followers everywhere will be hoping that his 2012 pre-season in Utah & then in Melbourne is an injury-free ripper.

Lachlan Hansen - #6

By [Only Forwards](#)

D.O.B: 17/08/1988

Height: 196cm

Weight: 95kg

Drafted: Pick 3, 2006 National Draft

2011Games: 17

Goals: 13

Supercoach: \$255,900 (-\$80,100)

Dreamteam: \$212,900 (-\$74,800)

After showing signs of the realisation of potential in 2010, 2011 was one of frustration with Lachie. Lachie sustained multiple niggling injuries throughout the season. A shoulder complaint against GWS in the pre-season did not set things off on the right foot. This was followed in round 6 by an awful looking hyper extension of the back against Port Adelaide, when Lachie collided with the fence after kicking a soccer goal. Ultimately he was sent in for shoulder surgery before the end of the season.

Lachie along with Lindsay Thomas have the dubious ability to divide NMFC fans. Lachie's laconic style is often perceived as lack of effort, and he will garner verbal derision from the stands. Lachie along with Sam Wright were publically called out by their captain in a post-game interview in round two. With Boomer later apologising for the comments which were in the aftermath of a 87 point drubbing at the hands of the reigning premiers.

Largely Lachie's season was tumultuous. Potential still abounds form the 23 year old, but being able to string multiple good games together evaded him all season. Lachie's best performance (while the subject of debate) came in the round 16 rematch with Collingwood (15 disp). Being possibly the best of the worst in what was NMFC's worst loss in a home and away game in 2 decades. He kept Cloke well held for 3 quarters, before being swung forward in the final term. Cloke at the time was arguably the in-form forward in the league.

In conjunction with Cameron Pedersen, Lachie consistently played a swingman type role moving between CHF and CHB. This in itself saw NMFC fans calling for him to be settled in one position. By and large the consensus is for him to be played out of CHB. However this may be at odds with the intention of the football department.

2012 looms large for Lachie, will he cement CHB? Will he take the mantle of CHF? Will he shake the pressure of not being Joel Selwood and deliver on his potential? There are a lot of questions as to how 2012 will pan out given his last 2 seasons; one thing is for sure where he is concerned, he will continue to split the opinions of the NMFC faithful.

Kieran Harper - #23

By [Kimbo](#)

DOB: 15/06/1992

Height: 187cm

Weight: 79 kg

Drafted: 2010 with pick 27 (Compensation)

2011

Games - 14

Goals – 12

Dreamteam – \$201,400 (+ \$108,900)

Supercoach - \$252,700 (+ \$149,100)

Drafted from the Eastern Ranges with North's second pick in the 2010 draft, Harper was seen as somewhat of a steal. It has been rumoured North were considering Harper as their first round pick, before Atley became available.

With his U18 year inhibited by injury, expectations of a debut in 2011 were low. Kieran exceeded these expectations, however, in making his debut in Rd6 against Port Adelaide, and by going on to play 14 games for the year.

Harper's goal sense was amply demonstrated with 12 goals to his credit from those 14 games. While many goals were kicked in the fashion of a flashy goal sneak, swooping on loose balls and receiving handballs inside 50m, he also showed what he could do with a magnificent set shot from just inside the 50m line, close to the boundary against the Dogs in Rd 17. In addition to his goal kicking, he excited with his considerable poise and skill in spotting up a target when kicking inside 50, which he did on 36 occasions (2.6 per game). While he only averaged 9.9 disposals per game, Kieran was a livewire defensively, laying 3.5 tackles per game. His best performance was 16 touches and two goals against Fremantle in Rd 22.

In drafting Harper, Brad Scott suggested he would fill the sort of role played by Brent Harvey. While the comparison might be high praise, Harper has already shown signs he could well live up to the billing, and emulate players like Boomer and Daniel Wells who he looks up to.

Brent Harvey - #29

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 14/05/78

Height: 172cm

Weight: 76kg

Drafted: Pick #46 1995 National Draft

2011

Games: 22

Goals: 31

Dreamteam: \$314,200 (-70,200) (Avg - 88.1)

Supercoach: \$409,600 (-62,800) (Avg - 101.1)

The Captain Brent Harvey had a solid 2011 season in which he averaged 22 disposals and averaged 1.4 goals a game playing a midfield/forward role for the side. It was a year that Brent also took Glenn Archer's, 'most games for the club' 311 games record and finished 3rd in the Syd Baker medal. Mid way through the season Brent was labelled selfish by SEN commentator Dermott Brereton stating, *"When he (Harvey) runs into an open goal and he has a teammate standing in the goal square unmarked and he doesn't give it ... what message do you think that sends to the rest of the team?"*. It's worth mentioning that Dermott Brereton missed 39 games to suspension (17 charges) and labelled Brent selfish. A guy that is ranked 3rd in the AFL for Goal Assists (323), I'll leave it at that.

Brent's start to the season had shades of the start to 2010. In a loss against West Coast he only had 11 disposals and 1 goal. The next 5 games, North lost 4 of those but Brent's form was consistent. He was able to get his hands on footy and contribute of the score board. That's pretty much the tone he set for the remaining of the season. The two standout games for mine was round 12 V Gold Coast with 29 disposals, 4 goals and round 24 V Richmond with 31 disposals, 2 goals and 7 inside 50's.

Despite being 33 years old, Brent hasn't lost any pace and the running goals are still on for show. Provided he doesn't receive any injuries, I'm predicting another good season in 2012.

Ayden Kennedy - #36

By [B Tron](#)

D.O.B: 30-10-1991

Height: 192cm

Weight: 82kg

Drafted: Pick No.41, 2009 National Draft

2011 Games: -

Goals: -

Supercoach: \$110,200 (-)

Dreamteam: \$97,600 (-)

Ayden Kennedy spent the 2010 season developing in the VFL and VFL reserves, and there was an air of excitement around the potential development that the tall, athletic and mobile utility would undergo in 2011. All seemed on track early in the year when Kennedy performed very well in preseason practice games. Unfortunately for Kennedy his season was ended almost before it began when he ruptured his ACL in the final quarter of a practice match against GWS in early March, forcing him to undergo a full knee reconstruction.

Kennedy was back on the running track mid 2011 in preparation for the 2012 season and has taken part fully in North's preseason camp in Utah. Blessed with excellent pace and agility for a man of his size, as well as excellent disposal by foot, the 20 year old Kennedy looms as a strong prospect for a position either at half forward, wing or half back for North Melbourne in 2012.

Ed Lower - #2

By [The Other Dean](#)

DOB: 23/6/87

Height: 186cm

Weight: 83kg

2011 Games: 0

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: \$255,500 (-\$0)

Dream Team: \$238,300 (-\$0)

After coming off a couple of injury-interrupted seasons (that saw him make a delayed start to 2010), Ed was again injured in Round 18, 2010 against the Bulldogs. He underwent a post-season knee operation following the club's trip to Utah, and at that point there appeared to be some confusion/difference of opinion on his prognosis. Initial suggestions were that his knee was shot. However, this seemed to change to a more positive outlook, and Ed took to his rehab with trademark determination and a renewed sense of hope.

However, there's no denying that the timing was terrible. In Brad Scott, Ed had found a coach who was willing to back him in as a part of the midfield rotation and, by all reports, the coach was happy with how Ed had performed in his Midfield role in the small number of games he was able to play in 2010. He proved a valuable foil to Swallow, helping to take some of the workload and pressure off the star midfielder, and generally providing the relatively young Midfield unit with some much needed grunt. Although it is probably worth noting that with this midfield now becoming a bigger, more experienced unit, injuries notwithstanding, it is open to contention as to whether Ed would have been able to find a spot in the current Midfield group, circa 2011. At any rate, he would have certainly given the club a talented, ready-to-go Midfield back up.

But alas, just as a return to the top level was looking like a real chance for Ed - after making a comeback to training in July, and returning to VFL football with some strong performances a few weeks following that - he just as quickly disappeared again. Despite the club keeping their cards close to their chest, word filtered through that after a couple of trial runs in the VFL, Ed realised that the knee just wasn't going to be able to stand up to the rigours of AFL footy. He promptly took no further part in the season - VFL or otherwise. At season's end, he was delisted by North. The suggestion again is that the decision was based on the long-term viability (or lack thereof) of his knee holding up. As yet there has been no indication that he will join another AFL club, but it would seem fairly unlikely.

Ben Mabon - #40

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 14th June 1992

H: 200cm

W: 81kg

2011

Games: 0

Goals: 0

Supercoach: 0 points (\$103,600) (+0)

Dream Team: 0 points (\$92,500) (+0)

As his statistics suggest, Ben Mabon is a ~~twig~~ project ruckman. Drafted with pick 71 in 2010, Mabon represented NSW/ACT at the Under 18 Championships. Mabon is very much under development and the magnificent tutelage of Todd Goldstein, Hamish McIntosh & North Melbourne's ruck coach Alex Ischenko. Mabon, in his own words, describes himself as "[an athletic, running ruckman who is hard-working, willing to listen and developing.](#)" Mabon has kicked bags of 2, and has had his performances talked up by watchers of the VFL & North Ballarat ([here](#) and [here](#)).

Mabon also goes by the name [Greg Sawny](#). Nobody has yet figured out who or why the boys at the club have given him this nickname. Sawny is a reputed huge fan of t-bone steak and chips, which, given his current weight, could well be an option to fatten the young man up.

Every club needs a young developing ruckman and North appear to have found a fantastic-moving, eager-to-learn one, who will have plenty of time to hone his craft in the VFL reserves & seniors.

Good luck for 2012 and beyond, Sawny.

Jamie MacMillan - #34

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 29/09/1991

Height: 188cm

Weight: 82 kg

Drafted: 2009 with pick 37

2011

Games - 9

Goals – 2

Dreamteam – \$134,200 (-\$70,300)

Supercoach - \$161,400 (-\$36,900)

Ranked 8th among rising stars in Inside 50s Per Game

After playing 4 games in his first year on the North Melbourne list much was expected from Jamie Macmillan in his second year as an AFL footballer. A young player who shows poise and class on the ball, and an ability to play tight as a defender, there were expectations that he would develop well in 2011.

Macmillan came into the 2011 season with a very strong fitness base after undertaking an increased running load over the course of the preseason with North fitness staff member, and seriously fit mofo, Jona Segal. With positions on the back flank and wing up for grabs it was expected that Jamie would solidify his spot in the 22 in one of these positions.

Intra club games in the preseason indicated that Macmillan was certainly on track to provide good rebound off the back flank in the season proper, but by the time the NAB Cup matches started injuries had taken their toll on the defence and Macmillan found himself playing a deep defensive role instead. His preseason performances from this point tapered off, with a slight knock here and there impacting upon his ability to get on the park.

Not selected for the first four rounds of the AFL season proper Macmillan worked hard in the VFL and some excellent performances saw him selected for the round 5 clash with Port Adelaide at Etihad Stadium. This was the first of six consecutive games at AFL level before Macmillan was carried off with concussion and fractured facial bones after colliding with an Adelaide Crow's hip in round 10. During this period Macmillan found himself playing on a wing, often providing a link between the back flankers and the forward line. His role was to be on the end of a link and to provide quality forward 50 entries for the team. He showed plenty of poise with the ball in hand and rather than being a lethal kick of the ball, Macmillan always showed significant control and good decision making.

The injury suffered against the Crows kept Macmillan out of the game for five weeks. He was brought straight back into the squad in round 17 and played in two wins before being dropped to the reserves for all bar the last game of the season.

In all Macmillan played 9 games for the season, averaging 12.75 touches a game playing in that offensive, wingman role. Disposal efficiency was quite high and he provided a significant number of inside 50's for the amount of disposals gathered.

Off the field Macmillan has showed maturity beyond his years and strong leadership qualities which are highly regarded amongst his peers and the coaching group at North Melbourne.

In 2012 Macmillan should be aiming to develop his upper body strength so that he can have greater impact on contests and as such increase his ability to win his own ball. Much like this time last year a spot in the 22 is there for the taking and hopefully Jamie can make it his own.

Hamish McIntosh - #1

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 04/09/84

Height: 203cm

Weight: 104kg

Drafted: Round 1, Pick #9 2002 National Draft

2011

Games: 1

Goals: 1

Dreamteam: \$334,300 (No price change) (Avg - 79)

Supercoach: \$396,800 (No price change) (Avg - 96)

2011 was a season Hamish will want to forget and move on with. In January Hamish had corrective surgery on his right achilles tendon that kept him sidelined for the first half of the season. Hamish returned via North Melbourne's VFL aligned side Werribee Tigers playing a forward/ruck role for the side.

Hamish did manage to get 1 game for North Melbourne in round 24 against Richmond. He had a solid game playing forward and ruck in tandem with Todd Goldstein. His stats were 15 disposals, 1 goal, 2 goal assists and 10 hitouts.

Ben McKinley - #26

By [Liam Boy](#)

DOB: 04/03/1987

Height: 185cm

Weight: 83kg

Drafted: 2005 with pick 29

Traded: 2010 for pick 86

2011

Games - 2

Goals – 0

Dreamteam - \$264,100

Supercoach – \$302,200

High expectations were placed on the former West Coast forward when he was traded into the club at the end of 2010. Pick 86 seemed a bargain for such a talented young forward, with many supporters rejoicing at the club's recruitment.

McKinley was named in the Round 1 side to face his old club, West Coast. He played a very poor game, and was subbed off late in the game. After this, he was dropped to the VFL where he played with Werribee for the following 13 rounds. He put in some good performances at VFL level, quickly becoming the Tigers' #1 marking forward option.

In round 15, the selection committee decided to give him another shot. This proved a bad decision, as he gathered only 3 disposals, 1 mark, 2 tackles and 1 goal assist, a poor return from a forward. He was dropped soon after and played the rest of the season for Werribee, and continued to take marks and kick goals.

One thing Ben will need to work on in the off-season is adding another dimension to his game, as these days everyone needs to be able to chase, tackle, run with the ball, etc.

Scott McMahon - #42

By [Liam Boy](#)

DOB: 02/06/1986

Height: 184cm

Weight: 87 kg

Drafted: 2004 with Rookie Pick 38

2011

Games - 21

Goals – 2

Dreamteam - \$302,300 (+41,400)

Supercoach – \$449,600 (+103,200)

After putting in solid performances in the last 5 games of season 2010, coming into the season McMahon had already cemented his place in the side. He proved a strong contributor for the first few rounds, as one of North's better players against West Coast, and one of the few players who played well against Collingwood in round 2, taking a soaring mark over Travis Cloke, which earned him a Mark of the Year nomination, one of the few North Melbourne highlights of the day.

He continued to put in solid efforts for the following few rounds, taking 9 marks vs. Port Adelaide in a 60 point win, . In Round 9 Against Brisbane, statistically he played one of his worst games of the year, with only 6 disposals. In a controversial moment, he tried to pick the ball up and return it after a free kick was paid to the opposition, though because of the opposition player pushing and shoving him as he did this, the umpire deemed that he had held it for too long, giving away 50m and a goal. He was dragged soon after, with Brad Scott giving him an earful over the phone. This was arguably one of the turning points that ultimately cost North Melbourne the game.

After this he played more consistently over the next few rounds, kicking a goal against Gold Coast, one of his only two for the year, a decent return from a defender. After missing the round 14 game against Port Adelaide due to the likelihood of his wife giving birth, he soon hit a purple patch in the games following, and strung together some standout games, with 19 disposals, 5 marks and a goal versus the Bulldogs, 19 disposals, 4 marks and 3 tackles versus Brisbane, 16 disposals, 5 marks and 4 tackles versus Carlton, and in his best game of the season and arguably his career, 29 Disposals, 8 marks, and 6 tackles against Hawthorn. Coming into the bye, McMahon was in very strong form.

He put in another solid effort against Fremantle, and he played his role well against St. Kilda but it was ultimately not enough, and North Melbourne's finals chances were dashed to the tune of 65 points. In the final round of the season against Richmond, he played another good game, with 19 Disposals, 8 Marks, and 5 tackles, and while he had another shot at goal, he was unable to convert, finishing the season with 2 goals and 1 behind to his name.

To summarise, 2011 was another good, solid season for McMahon, and though most neutral supporters wouldn't be able to pick him out of a lineup, he is surely held in high esteem within the club, always giving it 100% and doing what is required of him. McMahon can enter season 2012 with his head held high.

Aaron Mullett (R) - #41

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 23rd February 1992

H: 184

W: 73

2011

Games: 3

Goals: 0

Supercoach: 124 points (\$115,300) (+\$23,600)

Dream Team: 133 points (\$103,500) (+\$23,100)

A dynamic left footer recruited from the Eastern Ranges onto North's (you guessed it) rookie list, Aaron had to fight to push into a strong North team late in 2011. Impressive performances throughout the year in the VFL meant that coach Brad Scott had no choice but to promote the silky-skilled Mullett into the team for the Round 22 clash against Fremantle in Melbourne. He immediately made his presence felt, wearing a heavy hit from Fremantle's Clayton Hinkley and picking up 17 touches in the 98 point win.

Mullett kept his spot in the side for the final two matches of the 2011 season, gathering 10 & 9 touches against St Kilda & Richmond respectively. North fans have a lot to look forward with Mullett, with an added pre-season and an improved fitness base sure to allow the smooth-running player to move into the midfield.

Mullett also currently holds the record for the most nicknames in the AFL. It is understood to be something that he is very proud of.

Good luck to Aaron, who can hopefully build on his so-far-very-successful 3 game career.

Brayden Norris - #37

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: November 27th 1991

Height: 186

Weight: 72

2011 Games: 0

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: \$110,200 (0 points, +\$0)

Dream Team: \$97,600 (0 points, +\$0)

Brayden Norris was drafted by North Melbourne with their 4th round pick (53) in 2009, after starring at the draft combine, equalling the then-record performance in the beep test with 15.6, and finishing in the top 5 percent of the 3km time trial with a blistering 10:05 time.

Unfortunately, Norris was unable to transfer those excellent results to the AFL field. He showed promise in the VFL, popping up in the bests or the goals column more than a few times. Norris failed to rip a game apart, or boot a bag of goals, and his form in the VFL was not consistent enough to warrant a selection in the AFL. Probably behind other players like Wright, Adams, Warren & Edwards, Brayden was delisted by North Melbourne at the end of 2011.

Best of luck to Brayden with his future endeavours.

Cameron Pedersen (R) - #39

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 17/03/87

Height: 193cm

Weight: 100kg

Drafted: Round 1, Pick #17 2010 Rookie Draft

2011

Games: 14

Goals: 18

Dreamteam: \$252,700 (+154,300) (Avg - 71.4)

Supercoach: \$340,800 (+231,100) (Avg - 84.1)

A rookie draft selection, Cameron Pedersen played his first season of AFL at the age of 24. In his first year he managed to play 14 games. He is your standard utility type player who can play forward, back and ruck. In his debut game, Cameron was thrown into the deep end having to face Dean Cox in the ruck. He was one of North's best with 20 disposals, 3 inside 50's and 14 hit outs in the loss to West Coast. Despite playing as well as he did in his first game, Cameron was dropped a week later and didn't return to the side until round 7. It was round 13 against Essendon in which I thought he played his best game. He was taking marks all over the ground and pushing forward kicking goals. His stats were 3 goals, 8 marks, 3 goal assists and 3 inside 50's. Other than a couple games, for the rest of the season Cameron remained in the side due to his consistency of doing what he was required of him. Whether that was playing forward, back or pinch hitting in the ruck.

You couldn't ask for anymore from a first year player. Cameron was rewarded with best first-year player honours at the Syd Barker Medal night and a 2 year deal contract until the end of 2013.

Drew Petrie - #20

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 15th October 1982

H 197

W 102

2011

Games: 21

Goals: 48 - **8th in AFL for total goals**

Supercoach 1968 points (\$368,300) (**+\$152,300**)

Dream Team 1837 points (\$293,100) (**+83,400**)

Drew Petrie's 2010 was by all indications, a disaster. Multiple broken feet saw him play only 2 games and have a season ruined entirely by injury. North Melbourne finished 9th and missed out on the finals by mere percentage. Not that it was Drew's fault, but with a fit and firing Petrie breathing fire out of the goal square, it may have been a very different story in 2010. Enter 2011, and a fit and raring to go Petrie parked himself in the goal square with the aim to annihilate whoever was placed in front of him. What followed was a season which has yielded 48 goals, placing Petrie in the top 10 in the Coleman Medal, an All-Australian jumper and the accolades that go with being a team's number 1 forward.

Petrie averaged 2 goals a game, for starters. His high came in Round 5 when he kicked 6 goals from 17 kicks against Richmond. Petrie averaged 14 touches a game, with a high of 23 (and 5 goals) against the Western Bulldogs in Round 17. In the early rounds of the season, teams perhaps took it too easy on Petrie, who accepted his stepladders with glee, jumping over and onto many a defender's head. When teams began to double, and triple team him, he would take one-handed contested marks. Petrie took 49 contested marks in 2011, behind only Travis Cloke. He averaged 6 marks a game and bested nearly every defender that was placed on him.

Far from only providing a statistical boost to the team, Petrie was a beacon at full-forward, many times urging his midfielders to just put it long. Many times, only inaccuracy was between Petrie and winning games for North. Petrie put together quite the highlight reel, seen [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) among other places. Drew won North Melbourne their round 13 matchup vs Essendon with [this](#) magical snap from the boundary, and in games where North were outclassed, Petrie was constantly the shining light in the North Melbourne team.

Off the field, Drew provides crucial leadership and focus for the young forwards on the North list. At 29 years of age, Petrie has a few years left in the game and if those years are anything like 2011 were, then North Melbourne's midfielders have a lot to look forward to - delivering the football to a real life fire-breathing defender-stomping Drew Petrie.

Daniel Pratt - #30

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: March 21, 1983

Height: 185cm

Weight: 89kg

2011 Games: 8

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: 625 points (\$347,300, +\$3,700)

Dream Team: 520 points (\$272,500 +\$400)

Daniel Pratt was originally drafted way back in 2000 by North Melbourne, a fresh-faced youngster out of Queensland by way of the Northern Eagles Football Club. He played no games for North Melbourne and was subsequently delisted. The End.

No, just kidding. Pratt then went home to Brisbane after being offered another chance. He was again unsuccessful and was again, delisted. Thankfully, Crazy Laid, who was crazy coach before it was cool to be crazy coach, picked Pratt up for the bargain basement price of Pick 74 in the 2005 AFL draft. Pratt was then a stalwart of the North team for several years, including through the Dark Ages of 05-06. Statistically, Pratty's best season was also his last one - in which he averaged a total of 19 disposals over 8 games. This compares favourably - just - to his 2008 season, which yielded an average of 18.9 disposals over almost three times as many games.

Pratt was cut out of the Glenn Archer mould. A tough-at-it backman with no regard for opposition wellbeing, Pratt modelled his game on repelling enemy attacks time and time again with a well-placed fist. Constantly coming over the top of contests as the third man, and clearing the defensive 50 with penetrating disposal by foot, Pratt was a vitally important link in the North Melbourne backline. Always tough, Pratt was sometimes frustrating to watch as his aggression at the ball boiled over into unnecessary attacks on the man, sometimes leading to crucial 50 metre penalties against North.

Pratt was delisted by North at the end of the 2011 season. Whether due to age, poor form, being unable to crack the team or simply being pushed out of the team by younger players, Pratt moved on from the club and according to several sources, is training with VFL club Williamstown in the hope of furthering his football career.

Pratt is as staunch a North man as they come. Best wishes for Pratty going forward in life and in football.

Brady Rawlings - #3

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: June 10, 1981

Height: 184cm

Weight: 82kg

2011 Games: 22

2011 Goals: 2

Supercoach: \$288,400 (1611, **-\$183,600**)

Dream Team: \$240,800 (1615, **-\$143,500**)

Brady Rawlings is almost as old as time itself. His nose, once reputed to have stared down these [gods of ocular omnipotence](#), is the Gary Ablett of noses. Rawlings has been around since 1998, when North picked him with their first round choice of the draft. Now retired, Brady made the most of himself, playing 245 games for the North Melbourne football club. He did not play in the 1999 Grand Final-winning side, but did play 13 games in that, his debut season. Outstanding contributions to the club include being a triple best and fairest winner - only legends of the game including Brent Harvey, Wayne Carey, Noel Teasdale & David Dench have more. A much-celebrated leader of the club, but very much away from the glitz and the glamour that go with being your typical high-profile AFL footballer, Brady has mentored the younger players coming through in the backline, and now that he has retired, has taken up a development role at North Melbourne, where he will offer his nous and experience to the future generation of North young guns.

Statistically, Rawlings' best year was 2010, in which he averaged 28.3 touches, almost 6 marks and 2 tackles. 2010 yielded his highest disposal totals ever (39 & 37 respectively in wins against Fremantle and Melbourne), 5 Brownlow votes, rankings in the top 5 AFL wide for handballs & handballs per game, and a surprising third in the Syd Barker Medal (North Melbourne's best and fairest count). Rawlings made the backline general position his own, consistently mopping up the messes of others (and occasionally creating his own). Never flashy but rarely beaten, Rawlings was, at the peak of his game, famous for locking down the opposition's best midfielder, and later in his career when winding down, the backline's best lockdown player on the smaller forwards of the competition.

The list of players that have been humbled by Rawlings reads like a who's who of AFL midfielders. Stephen Hill of Fremantle in particular has suffered the wrath of Rawlings on more than one occasion, but others have fallen prey to Rawlings' blanket techniques. He earned a reputation as a fierce competitor and a driven stopper. As mentioned, his twilight years saw a move to the backline, where players like Stephen Milne, Hayden Ballantyne and Eddie Betts became his quarry. While not always successful, Brady always gave his all and left nothing on the field.

Not always the most skilled player in the North side, Rawlings bore the brunt of frustrated North



supporters who blamed him for the side's poor skill level coming out of defence. While he was responsible for a portion of the errors, others contributed to the sometimes farcical situation in the backline, and Rawlings earned himself staunch defenders, who would analyse his games simply to prove his detractors wrong. Rawlings ranked fourth at North for disposals in 2011, with 489. Brent Harvey, in 2nd place, had 492. In his final year of football, Rawlings averaged 22.2 disposals and 4 marks a game. He played 22 games, his best coming in the 21 point win over Essendon in Round 13 (22 kicks, 13 handballs, 4 marks) and the opening game of the season (18 kicks, 14 handballs & 8 marks) in a narrow loss to West Coast.

As previously stated, Rawlings has accepted a job at North Melbourne which he has already been doing for a while now - developing his successors. A job was offered to him almost immediately after his retirement, and a player who has given 13 years of service and 245 games of grit, determination and bloody hard work has the chance to extend that service to further the history of the North Melbourne Football Club.

Brady Rawlings - a true champion Shinboner.

Best of luck to Brady in 2012 and beyond in his new role at North Melbourne.

Cameron Richardson - #21

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: Dec 2 1987

Height: 189

Weight: 83

2011 Games: 8

2011 Goals: 1

Supercoach: \$159,200 (343 points) +\$49,000

Dream Team: \$138,600 (342 points) +\$41,000

The Other Richo, touted as one of the best players not on an AFL list, was drafted after a convoluted and highly confusing (but not really) trade with the Gold Coast Suns, and ended up on North Melbourne's list after a scintillating season with the North Ballarat Roosters. Highlights can be found [here](#).

It could be said that there were high hopes for Richo from the majority of fans at North for the 2011 season. He filled a need in the side, looked lightning quick and had dangerous disposal. Unfortunately through a combination of injury, poor form and the emergence of youngsters, Richo didn't quite have the impact that the club and the supporters would have hoped. Nevertheless, there were still highlights - 17 touches against Fremantle and a goal in the pivotal win against Hawthorn.

Richo's VFL form was promising and showed that he is determined enough to force his way back into a team that is still somewhat lacking in his position. If the drive and grit are there, Richo will make the position his in 2012 and show the competition why North Melbourne tore him from the grasp of their VFL affiliate, like an older brother taking a toy simply because he is bigger than his younger brother.

Good luck for 2012 and beyond Richo.

Ben Ross - #15

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: September 21, 1988

Height: 179cm

Weight: 76kg

2011 Games: 0 **Supercoach:** \$212,200 (0 points, +\$0)

2011 Goals: 0 **Dream Team:** \$162,800 (0 points, +\$0)

As of right now, Ben Ross is probably the best player in the country not on an AFL list. The reasons for this, range from injury woes to bad luck and everything in between. Blessed with pace, vision, disposal & a touch of class & cheek, Ben Ross was like Brent Harvey MK II - only without the insane luck that goes with being Boomer. Ben's luck started when he was drafted in the pre-season draft to North Melbourne in 2006, the year of Lachie Hansen, Todd Goldstein, Leigh Adams, Matt Campbell, Aaron Edwards, Ben Warren, Lindsay Thomas.. probably the most successful North has ever been at the draft table. Ross was only to play 14 games in 5 years, due to those aforementioned injuries & that wretched luck.

When he made it onto the field either at VFL level or in the rare occasions he played in the North jumper, Ross showed spark. On a wet night at AAMI Stadium in 2008 against the then-decent Port Adelaide, he was crucial in the clinches, kicking a vital goal to steal a win for North. His dash through the middle provided headaches for coaches & opposition players alike, but unfortunately was shown far too little. Ben's injury history is well documented. He featured on an episode of [Damage Control](#), where it was revealed that he'd been playing with severe hip pain for most of the 2010 season (a season in which he played just 2 games at an average of 13 disposals).

Ben's best season was his 2009 year. He played 9 games for the royal blue and white, picking up an average of 17 disposals a game. Inaccuracy cost him a greater impact on the scoreboard, registering 2.7 for the year. Ben also averaged 3.1 tackles a game in 2009, displaying strength beyond his slight frame. Still considered a Rising Star in 2009, Ben was ranked 2nd in the competition for those Rising Stars for 150s a game, suggesting just how potent and dangerous he could have been delivering the ball inside 50 if given more of a run with injuries.

Ross spent more time in the VFL than in the AFL, where he was consistently among the better players for North Melbourne's VFL affiliate, Werribee. Running through the midfield, he was a sight to behold when at full speed, and was never far from the action or the bests post-game. Many North supporters were dumbfounded at the decision to delist Ross, although it has to be said there was no other logical choice.

No doubt there are clubs in the AFL who will be looking to add Ross to their list, as he would be an excellent acquisition to any AFL side. Best of luck for 2012 and beyond, Rossy.

Matthew Scott (R) - #44

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 12 April 1991

H: 185

W: 74

2011

Games: 0

Goals: 0

Supercoach: 0 points, \$103,600

Dream Team: 0 points, \$92,500

Matthew Scott was a highly rated young midfielder drafted onto North Melbourne's rookie list. He showed a high amount of promise, splitting his time between the seniors and the reserves for North Melbourne's VFL affiliate in Werribee.

Unfortunately, Scott suffered what ended up being an AFL-career ending injury, at least for North Melbourne, when he tore his ACL playing in the VFL. He was delisted by the club at the end of 2011.

All the best to "Motchi" in his recovery and subsequent football career.

Benjamin Speight - #46

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: 2nd May 1990

H: 183

W 78

2011

Games: 8

Goals: 6

Supercoach: 384 points (\$193,200) (+31,700)

Dream Team: 383 points (\$172,500) (+\$1,400)

Speight is another one of North's rookie success stories. Drafted onto the rookie list in 2008 after representing South Australia in the Under 18 Championships, Speight debuted against the Scum in Round 17, 2010.

Speight was promoted to the senior list for 2011 and with the introduction of the substitute rule, Ben found his new role with his lightning pace and evasiveness perfect traits to fill the sub spot. Ben was the preferred substitute of Brad Scott numerous times throughout the season, none more important or influential than in the Round 17 match against the Western Bulldogs, where Speight was subbed on, gathered 9 possessions and a goal, and [a brilliant run down tackle on Jarrad Grant](#), which swung the momentum back North's way for a pivotal victory.

When given a chance at a full game (4 times throughout the season), Speight showed that he isn't just a 1 quarter wonder, racking up a season-high of 23 touches against Adelaide, and 14 touches & 2 goals against Port Adelaide. Unfortunately, as seemed to be the case with North's promising youngsters throughout the year, Speight [suffered a season-ending shoulder injury](#) in that win against the Bulldogs. He missed the final 6 games of the season.

Ben will be looking for a step-up in game time in 2012. Hopefully having seen his value, coach Brad Scott will either inject the super sub earlier or allow him to have a full game more often. With a career total of 10 games, Ben Speight is set to explode in 2012.

Andrew Swallow - #9

By [Chog](#)

D.O.B: 2/6/1987

Height: 182cm

Weight: 80kg

Drafted: Pick 43, 2005 National Draft

2011Games: 22

Goals: 11

Supercoach: \$482,700 (-\$34,200)

Dreamteam: \$374,400 (-\$34,600)

One of North Melbourne's best players, Andrew Swallow enjoyed another outstanding season, and was rewarded by being nominated for All-Australian selection, being named Vice-Captain in the International Rules Team and by sharing the 2011 Syd Barker Medal with teammate Daniel Wells. Spitta's reputation as a hard-nut clearance machine has been well and truly recognised in the AFL, as the past 3 seasons have seen him earn 2 best and fairests and a runner up best and fairest at North. At only 24 years of age, Spitta is almost certain to add to his growing awards cabinet and also Brownlow vote tally, which currently stands at 34.

Spitta has also demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, on and off the field, at North and is the most likely player to assume the kangaroos' Captaincy after Brent Harvey. His ferocious attack on the footy and hardness at the man are admired by many at the club. He also showed improvement in his outside game in 2011, and was not afraid to have a bounce or a shot at goal. In 2011, Spitta played all 22 games, averaging 25.6 disposals and 6.6 tackles. He also collected above 30 possessions on 8 separate occasions. Arguably the best game of his career came in Round 11 against Adelaide in which Spitta amassed 39 touches and 18 clearances in a clear best-on-ground performance. He is also ranked 3rd in the AFL for total clearances, 11th for total handballs and total tackles, 15th for total Supercoach score and 17th for total disposals.

Spitta has become the North midfield's most valuable player and along with the likes of Jack Ziebell, Levi Greenwood, Leigh Adams and Ryan Bastinac, will form the powerful engine room that will drive the club forward in years to come.

Robbie Tarrant - #25

By [B Tron](#)

DOB: 25/04/1989

Height: 196cm

Weight: 96 kg

Drafted: 2007 with pick 15

2011

Games - 7

Goals – 1

Dreamteam – \$152,700 (+\$30,200)

Supercoach - \$194,900 (+\$10,000)

After injury stalled the majority of Robbie Tarrant's early football career, season 2011 loomed as an opportunity for him to stake his claim as a key defender for the future for the NMFC. Blessed with a great physique to play as a key position player, and with Nathan Grima suffering a pre-season back injury that would affect his ability to perform all season, Tarrant had no better chance to break into the side and hold down a key defensive post and solidify his future as an AFL defender.

Unfortunately, despite showing some good form in patches, Tarrant had an inconsistent year in which he spent significant periods playing reserves football for Werribee.

Tarrant started the season with a bang, playing his best game for the club on his way to collecting 21 disposals (13 kicks 8 handballs), 8 marks and 6 tackles in the round 1, 4 point loss to West Coast at Paterson's Stadium. That encouraging display ensured that he would hold his place in the team, but a gradual decline in output saw Tarrant dropped after the round four loss against Richmond. Interestingly, Tarrant was part of a squad that lost the opening 4 games of the year, and was left out of the teams first win in round 6 against Port Adelaide.

Playing predominantly in the back line, but with stints up forward, Tarrant was in solid, and sometimes spectacular form for Werribee in the VFL over the course of the next 12 weeks. Continuing to work on his game after missing 2 years of football, Tarrant's consistency in the reserves was rewarded with promotion to the senior squad for the round 18 game against the Brisbane Lions. Matched against Lions key target Mitch Clarke, Tarrant more than held his own, beating his opponent on the day and using the ball very effectively.

Much like early in the season, Tarrant's strong efforts however were not maintained and his form reversed badly the following week against Carlton where many times he appeared lost on the ground, often trailing his opponent to the ball by significant margins. Despite this performance Tarrant survived the cut to play one more game for the year against Hawthorn, before being dropped again for the last three games of the season.

As a junior, Robbie Tarrant was a very strong Centre Half Back who marked strongly and used the ball more efficiently than any other draftee NMFC in recent years. At his best, Tarrant is a very solid, big bodied defender who can out mark his direct opponent and set up play. He can also be a very clean user of the ball, hitting up targets across the back half of the ground. Not overly endowed with pace, Tarrant must now work hard to overcome his deficiencies so that he can develop into the key defender that North so desperately need. He is now finally getting continuity in his training and game time, so further development is expected in 2012.

Lindsay Thomas - #12

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 28/02/88

Height: 180cm

Weight: 78kg

Drafted: Round 4, Pick #53 2006 National Draft

2011

Games: 19

Goals: 21

Dreamteam: \$219,700 (+800) (Avg - 59)

Supercoach: \$262,700 (+10,800) (Avg - 61.4)

Thomas's 2011 season was somewhat of a mixed bag of lollies. He had good games, he had average games and then your downright poor games.

Thomas got off to a good start to the season. Despite losing the first 2 games, Thomas averaged 3 goals in those games. The next five weeks however weren't so good, he only managed 2 goals and 16 behinds. It was the start of some woeful set shot kicking at goal which stuck around with him like a bad smell for the rest of the season. Thomas did try to make up for it with his defensive pressure and tackling, which was there for the majority of the season. However he was letting the team down with inaccurate shots at goal time and time again. He tried resolving the issue with extra goal kicking practice at training, but wasn't really able to get on top of it on game day. By the round 17 Brad Scott had enough and Thomas was dropped to North Ballarat for three weeks to find his form and touch again. Form was found for North Ballarat, which included a 9 goal game. Thomas came back into the side for the remaining three games of the season. He finished off in reasonable fashion kicking 4 goals, 7 behinds and 16 tackles in those remaining games.

If Thomas can kick more accurately in front of goal in 2012, he could be a 30-40 goal player. For a small forward, that's very good season.

Scott Thompson - #16

By [Liam Boy](#)

DOB: 09/05/1986

Height: 193cm

Weight: 93 kg

Drafted: 2007 with pick 37

2011

Games - 22

Goals – 2

Dreamteam – \$251,500(-\$25,000)

Supercoach - \$350,300(-\$8,600)

After becoming infamous among the league last year after the Barry Hall Incident, one thing many neutrals didn't know about Scott Thompson was what a reliable defender he was. After an excellent 2009 and a slightly disappointing 2010, Scott Thompson looked set to hold down a defensive post for the season to come.

His first two games were far from standout, in accordance with the rest of the team. He laid 9 tackles against Fremantle in round 4, a personal best for his whole career. Against Brisbane in round 9, though he did not lay a single tackle, he managed 22 disposals and 3 marks, but unfortunately he gave away a free kick for stepping over the mark, one of several that cost North Melbourne the game.

His game against Sydney was arguably his best for the year. Tagging Adam Goodes, not only did he keep the prominent forward quiet for most of the game, he managed to kick 2 goals of his own, lifting the team off his own boot. Though they were both terrible kicks, they managed to float through. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough for North to emerge victorious, as the team ultimately went down by 1 point to the Swans.

Scott continued to play good consistent football for a while, with 5 tackles and 7 marks against Gold Coast at Metricon, 18 disposals against Essendon, but the exceptions were his bad games against St. Kilda and Collingwood. (Though to be fair, he wasn't the only one.) Thankfully he didn't play on Barry Hall this outing, with the defensive job instead being taken by newcomer Luke Delaney. Ignoring this, Scott had a pretty bad game, with only 9 disposals and 2 marks.

Scott did an excellent job tagging Eddie Betts in North Melbourne's sole Friday night game for the year, managing to collect 19 disposals of his own and lay 7 tackles. He continued this form the following week against Hawthorn's Buddy Franklin, keeping him completely quiet for the first 3 quarters, proving he's equally capable on tall and smalls.

After the bye, Scott had another game to remember, with 21 disposals, 8 marks and 3 tackles, as well as a spoil after the siren that meant North surrendered a behind to the Dockers, in what was ultimately a 98 point victory for the Kangas. In a moment to remember, Scott managed to run down Fremantle goal sneak Hayden Ballantyne, which led to an eruption of cheers among the North Melbourne faithful, who were screaming things like "KILL HIM! KILL HIM!" as Ballantyne ran towards the goal. Despite being almost 20 centimetres taller than Ballantyne, Scott still managed to keep up and halt the run of the Dockers' small forward.

Scott played another big game against the Saints, despite North Melbourne's deficiencies at the final siren, with 26 disposals, 8 marks, 2 tackles, and 2 ruck hitouts, playing a rare cameo in the ruck vs. St. Kilda's Ben McEvoy, who is hardly a Ruckman to be sneered at. Playing another good, solid game vs. Richmond, Scott finished the season on a high, playing his part in Brady Rawlings' final hurrah.

Scott is essentially the complete defender. Capable of playing on mobile tall, smalls, able to run it out of defense and kick it out from full back, Thompson has been instrumental over the past few years. Depending whether he is to play full back every week or back pocket some weeks, Scott could benefit from adding 10 kilos or so over the off-season, as he proved undersized against big forwards such as Barry Hall and Nick Riewoldt. This may not be necessary, as it is likely that he will be used against small forwards most weeks, and mobile tall forwards such as Lance Franklin, Adam Goodes, Matthew Pavlich etc.

Gavin Urquhart - #14

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: May 18, 1988

Height: 181cm

Weight: 81kg

2011 Games: 1

2011 Goals: 0

Supercoach: \$264,400 (12 points, +\$0)

Dream Team: \$245,500 (7 points, +\$0)

The best kick at the club, NAY. The best in the ENTIRE AFL! A gut-running machine once compared favourably to Scott Pendlebury. A quick search of YouTube reveals that Gavin Urquhart is also [Farren Ray's worst nightmare](#). All of these labels and more have been applied to Urquhart since he was drafted in 2006. Sadly, Urquhart was never able to live up to the expectations placed upon him by supporters and media alike.

Gavin was delisted at the end of 2011 by North Melbourne, after a career spanning 5 years and 41 games. His best year was without a shadow of a doubt his 2009 season, in which he averaged 17 disposals and 5 marks over 18 games. His only game for 2011 yielded just 1 kick and 2 handballs, only after being promoted into the side against Carlton due to Jamie MacMillan (interestingly, one of the leading competitors for Gav's spot) succumbing to illness. A short match report is available [here](#).

Urquhart also held the interesting honor of being one of North Melbourne's most maligned players. Countless hours of discussion and bandwidth were dedicated to describing and analysing every aspect of Urquhart's game, whether it be his sizzling work on the training track or his teasingly "nearly there" VFL skills. Originally from Queensland, Urquhart was the subject of endless trade rumours, being packaged with everything from Ben Warren to a third round pick to attempt to snare anything and anyone from the Gold Coast franchise. Gavin stayed, and continued to tease and frustrate football watchers everywhere.

While it is no lie that Urquhart has been delisted by North, there is speculation that the club has plans to re-draft Urquhart as a rookie. Gavin has undoubted talent. The trouble is extracting it.

Ben Warren - #5

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 11/02/89

Height: 186cm

Weight: 87kg

Drafted: Round 5, Pick #69 2006 National Draft

2011

Games: 3

Goals: 1

Dreamteam: \$220,700 (-40,700) (Avg - 29.7)

Supercoach: \$238,800 (-42,200) (Avg - 29.3)

Ben's 2011 season for North Melbourne was a quiet one. He only played just the 3 games for season. Ben struggled all year to get into the side due to team structure with the return of Drew Petrie and Aaron Edwards form throughout the year. Ben's only contribution on the scoreboard was against the Brisbane Lions in round 18 kicking 1 goal and behind.

Ben's form for Werribee however, was second to none. He played the lead up forward exceptionally well in tandem with Ben Mckinley. Ben's form all year warranted selection North's line up, there's not much more he could of done. I'm hoping Ben can find a way back in the side for 2012, he certainly deserves it.

Daniel Wells - #8

By [TennisPlayerAndy](#)

DOB: 03/02/1985

Height: 181cm

Weight: 82 kg

Drafted: 2002 National Draft: Pick 2

2011

Games - 21

Goals – 17

Dreamteam – \$335,300 (+ \$6,700)

Supercoach - \$402,400 (- \$25,500)

Despite showing stretches of brilliance over the previous eight years of his career, there were still those out there that had doubts over whether Daniel Wells was capable of taking the next step to become one of the top midfielders in the AFL. By midseason, those doubters were silenced.

With renewed confidence in his body after overcoming debilitating groin issues, the fully fit Wells built on a solid 2010 and was a beacon of consistency in the North Melbourne midfield. Having been told by new coach Brad Scott to go and get his own ball, Daniel became the complete midfielder and nigh on untagable. His ability to win the ball inside, create space then use it at an elite level outside the packs made him North Melbourne's most damaging midfielder.

Wells averaged 20 disposals in the 2010. He went to the next level in 2011 averaging 23.5 disposals a game. He hit the scoreboard regularly, kicking 17 goals with numerous others passed off to teammates. His defensive pressure was fantastic recording almost 4 tackles a game. After his 33 possession, 7 mark, 8 tackle game against the league's newcomers, the Gold Coast Suns, Wells was talked up by some as a Brownlow contender as well as being widely picked to pick up his first All Australian selection.

Towards the end of the season Wells' form tapered off slightly from the high standards he had set during the season and after a disappointing loss to St Kilda in Round 23 he was sent in for shoulder surgery putting a stop to his terrific season.

It was then revealed after his surgery, Wells had been suffering from a shortness of breath and sharp pain around his chest. It was discovered that he had multiple blood clots in both lungs which could've proven fatal if left undetected. It is believed they began forming towards to end of the season which can partly explain his decreased output.

Despite this setback (he is unable to complete any contact training until the start of the 2012

season due to medication) Wells is slated to be right to go come Round 1, 2012.

His leadership around the club, both on and off the field, cannot be understated. With North's young engine room it is players like Wells that are expected to guide the way. Despite the fact that he is a softly spoken man, when he talks, the young brigade listen intently.

If Wells can emulate his 2011 season, North Melbourne supporters will want to turn up each week just to watch him gracefully hover over the turf.

Marcus White (R) - #43

By [Dan](#)

DOB: 24/10/90

Height: 185cm

Weight: 80kg

Drafted: Round 1, Pick #9 2008 Rookie Draft

2011

Games: 0

Goals: 0

Dreamteam: \$161,300 (No change in value) (Avg - 0)

Supercoach: \$160,600 (No change in value) (Avg - 0)

Debuting in 2010 playing 2 games, Marcus White was unable to register a game for North Melbourne in season 2011. However he did play in a NAB practice game against the Western Bulldogs. In April playing for North Ballarat, he sustained a shoulder injury that kept him on sidelines. He played in 2 premierships for North Ballarat.

Marcus was recently delisted from North Melbourne's list and will play in the WAFL with East Perth in 2012.

Samuel Wright - #19

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: July 15, 1990

Height: 188cm

Weight: 84kg

2011 Games: 8

2011 Goals: 9

Supercoach: \$247,400 (471, **-\$10,700**)

Dream Team: \$216,300 (441, **-\$32,400**)

The silky-skilled Sam Wright, drafted out of the Bushrangers with pick 27 in the 2008 draft (along with his good mate Jack Ziebell), is one of the more exciting and oft-looked over young North Melbourne players. Blessed with incredible goal sense, a stunning overhead mark for a player of his size, dual-sided kicking and evasiveness to boot, Wright played 4 games in '09, 20 in '10 before only managing 8 games in '11, succumbing to a shoulder injury. Wright was placed in cotton wool and underwent rehabilitation for his injury, with the North Melbourne medical staff keen to allow Wright as much time in the gym as possible - his draft photo shows a skinny kid who appears to scarcely be able to believe his own luck.

Sam has provided North with numerous highlights as a youngster, the most impressive of those [this snap on his wrong foot, running at the boundary](#). Wright is not averse to kicking bags of goals, and from memory alone has achieved the feat of multiple goals against West Coast, Essendon, Port Adelaide and Fremantle. Wright averaged 11.6 disposals in his 8 games at AFL level this year, along with 3.5 marks.

That gym time should prove crucial for Wright. He needs to bulk up in order to improve his fitness and conditioning - his skills, already mercurial are up towards North's elite end. Look forward to big things from Wright in 2012.

Jack Ziebell - #7

By [Flawed Genius](#)

DOB: July 15, 1990

Height: 188cm

Weight: 84kg

2011 Games: 8

2011 Goals: 9

Supercoach: \$247,400 (471, **-\$10,700**)

Dream Team: \$216,300 (441, **-\$32,400**)

The silky-skilled Sam Wright, drafted out of the Bushrangers with pick 27 in the 2008 draft (along with his good mate Jack Ziebell), is one of the more exciting and oft-looked over young North Melbourne players. Blessed with incredible goal sense, a stunning overhead mark for a player of his size, dual-sided kicking and evasiveness to boot, Wright played 4 games in '09, 20 in '10 before only managing 8 games in '11, succumbing to a shoulder injury. Wright was placed in cotton wool and underwent rehabilitation for his injury, with the North Melbourne medical staff keen to allow Wright as much time in the gym as possible - his draft photo shows a skinny kid who appears to scarcely be able to believe his own luck.

Sam has provided North with numerous highlights as a youngster, the most impressive of those [this snap on his wrong foot, running at the boundary](#). Wright is not averse to kicking bags of goals, and from memory alone has achieved the feat of multiple goals against West Coast, Essendon, Port Adelaide and Fremantle. Wright averaged 11.6 disposals in his 8 games at AFL level this year, along with 3.5 marks.

That gym time should prove crucial for Wright. He needs to bulk up in order to improve his fitness and conditioning - his skills, already mercurial are up towards North's elite end. Look forward to big things from Wright in 2012.

The Back Page