



MEDIA RELEASE

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DRAFTSTAR LAUNCHES THE TIM WATSON SCHOLARSHIP

FOOTBALL great Tim Watson is searching for champions of the future and showing his commitment to junior athlete development by teaming with the AFL's high performance talent partner, DraftStar, to launch the Tim Watson Scholarship.

The Tim Watson Scholarship will provide places for 20 young footballers in the DraftStar Academy, a 12-month program tailored to meet individual needs and give participants a pathway to reach their potential.

Aspiring young athletes are invited to register their interest in the Tim Watson Scholarships at www.draftstar.com.au/scholarship as well as attend a selection trial at Melbourne's Xavier College on Sunday, December 9.

DraftStar offers football development programs and camps with high performance coaching for young male and female athletes of all abilities aged between 11 and 17.

"I'm delighted to be involved and to enable aspiring young athletes who might not otherwise get the chance, the opportunity to be involved in an elite AFL training experience," Tim Watson said.

"I'm looking forward to being involved with DraftStar, especially as my son, Jobe, is a DraftStar ambassador, and will watch with great interest the progress of the Tim Watson scholars."

The Tim Watson Scholarship includes a 12-month DraftStar Academy placement comprised of four DraftStar Camps throughout 2013 offering leadership and teamwork activities, football skills training and assessment, AFL 60 fitness testing as conducted by AFL clubs, match simulation activities, recovery sessions, and special presentations on topics such as fitness, nutrition, hydration, motivation, and goal setting, as well as tips on getting recruited.

"The beauty of our program is that every level of junior football can attend and it is designed to iron out any deficiencies in their game early in their development," said Ben Dixon, former Hawthorn champion and founder of DraftStar.

"We also believe that training the mind is just as important as training the body, and the skills we teach will benefit the kids in all aspects of their lives, both on and off the field."

Tim Watson Scholarship applicants will be assessed on skill, athletic ability, game sense, leadership qualities and attitude by a panel of judges including Danny Frawley, Jason Dunstall, Robbie Campbell and Ben Dixon.

Current AFL players and DraftStar ambassadors including Geelong's Joel Selwood, Carlton's Matthew Kreuzer, Essendon's Jobe Watson, Collingwood's Scott Pendlebury, Richmond's Brett Deledio and Hawthorn's Cyril Rioli are expected to be present at the Tim Watson Scholarship Selection Trial to encourage and support participants.

"Not only is it a great chance to win entry into the 2013 DraftStar Academy, it is also a great opportunity for participants to see how their skills compare to others their age, and for those who have been considering coming to a DraftStar Camp it is a really good taste of what you can expect," Dixon said.

The DraftStar Tim Watson Scholarship winners will be announced on Monday, December 17, 2012.

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For further information:

Greta Donaldson *Greta Donaldson Publicity* (03) 9696 3234, 0427 658 638 or greta@gdpublicity.com.au