

Geelong Falcons – 2014 List Review

SOME familiar names will be running around in Geelong Falcons colours this season after the TAC Cup club finalised its 2014 playing list following the completion of its trial matches.

Among the squad of 50 are four brothers of current AFL players – including one that is a potential father-son prospect in this year's AFL draft – the cousin of a former No.1 draft pick, two sons of ex-VFL/AFL players and the son of a current AFL coach.

Aaron Christensen, brother of Geelong premiership player Allen, has been invited back for his third season with the club after being overlooked in last year's national and rookie drafts.

Dylan Hodge, brother of Hawthorn captain Luke, Charles Curnow, whose brother Ed is at Carlton, and Zaine Cordy, brother of Western Bulldogs ruckman/forward Ayce, will be other names watched closely by fans this season.

Cordy is eligible to be drafted by the Bulldogs as a father-son pick as his father, Brian, played 122 games for the club between 1981 and 1988. Brian Cordy also coached the Falcons between 1996 and 1999. Bulldogs fans will also have a keen interest on the name Lockety McCartney. The 16-year-old is the son of their current coach, Brendan.

Key forward Hugh Goddard is the cousin of Essendon utility Brendon, the No.1 draft pick chosen by St Kilda back in 2002. The 195cm 17-year-old is tipped to be a first round prospect in this year's crop and is a member of the AIS-AFL Academy squad.

Harrison Kol, whose dad, Michael played 63 games for Geelong in the 1980's, and Teia Miles, whose father Geoff played 122 matches for Collingwood, West Coast and Geelong between 1982-92, are also part of this year's squad.

Falcons coach Andy Allthorpe said the 2014 squad had good depth, but would be tested throughout the season with players called away for APS commitments and also with Vic Country during the under-18 national championships.

"If we get our best team out on the park we'll look very good," Allthorpe declared.

"We've got a good blend of players, good variety. I'm very happy with our best 24 to 26 players – it's going to be very competitive for spots early on because we've got nine players in the state (Vic Country) squad and I'm expecting all nine to play."

Christensen is one of five 19-year-olds named on the Falcons list for 2014.

Doug Bond, a member of the GWS Academy and Scott Dixon, their leading goalkicker last season, are also back for their third seasons with the club.

The others are 197cm ruckman Michael Randone (Queenscliff) and midfielder Toby Manganelli (Bell Park). Allthorpe said the Falcons have 20 bottom age - or 17-year-old players – on their list.

“There’s going to be good opportunities for those kids to show us what they’ve got and really stake a claim for the following year,” Allthorpe said.

The Falcons kick off their season against neighbouring country rivals the North Ballarat Rebels in Camperdown on Sunday, March 30 at 2pm.

Brad Green