

Media Release:

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NTIS Athlete Selected for AFL Draft Camp

Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) scholarship holder Deon Gordon is one of three Territorians invited to attend the AFL Draft Camp being held at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) from 29 September to 2 October 2009.

NTIS AFL Head Coach Brett Hand said there will be 75 players attending the camp, where they face a series of fitness, psychological and medical tests over the three days.

“All of the AFL Clubs attend the camp and conduct individual interviews with players, which usually involve the senior coach, senior recruiting manager and other development staff within the club, which is great exposure for these young players,” Mr Hand said.

“To be invited to attend the Draft Camp at least four AFL clubs need to nominate you in their list of top 50 players, so it’s a great achievement for Deon’s potential to be recognised.

“Deon played really well in the last three games in the National Carnival and will now join fellow Territorians Mitchell Taylor and Troy Taylor in attending the AFL Draft Camp.

“Although he is currently undergoing a knee reconstruction Deon will still be able to observe, undertake some of the testing and participate in interviews with clubs.”

Deon, from Beagle Bay in Western Australia, has been living in Darwin for the last three years and has been part of the NTIS AFL Scholarship Program since 2007.

“The NTIS is the Northern Territory Government’s centre of sporting excellence for the identification, development and support of the Territory’s talented athletes,” Mr Hand said.

“The NTIS AFL squad program has produced a number of athletes now playing at top level with AFL Clubs including Marlon Motlop (Port Adelaide), Jarred Brennan (Brisbane Lions), Tom Logan (Port Adelaide), Cameron Stokes (Hawthorn) and Michael Gugliotio (Gold Coast).

Mr Hand said the invitation to the AFL Draft Camp caps off a stellar season for the 18 year old, who was co-captain of the U18 Thunder team this year and made his debut with the senior Territory Thunder team earlier this season.

“Deon was nominated for the Rising Star award with the AFLQ in just his second game with Territory Thunder,” Mr Hand said.

Deon is currently employed with the AFLNT on an AFL Sportsready Traineeship after completing Year 12 at St Johns College.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Brett Hand on 8922 6808

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