



MEDIA RELEASE

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Rostrevor footballers excel in Draft

They have experienced victory together in the State U18 championships and at Intercol and now Year 12s Luke Valente, Jacob Kennerley and Ben Jarvis have been drafted to AFL clubs in a landmark day for Rostrevor football.

Eyre Peninsula boarders Ben and Jacob will both head to Geelong as draft picks 48 and 50, while Luke has been selected by the Fremantle Dockers at pick 32.

Rostrevor Principal Brian Schumacher says the selection of three players from Rostrevor's First XVIII inside the top 50 Draft picks is a remarkable achievement by the young men and all those who have supported and coached them.

"Luke, Ben and Jacob have had an exceptional year on and off the sporting field and are all men of great character who will bring great talent and sportsmanship to their respective AFL clubs," he says.

Jacob, from Cummins, and Ben, from Port Lincoln, moved to Rostrevor's Boarding House several years ago to broaden their football and academic opportunities.

Both say the move has paid off and placed them in great stead to make the move to Geelong.

"I'm not phased about moving," says Jacob. "I've already done this sort of thing before and it's pretty exciting knowing I will be getting to play with some pretty cool people who I have looked up to."

Jacob, who is described as a versatile and hard-running midfielder, says it has been a great football ride this year teaming up with Luke and Ben in the victorious U18 State team and enjoying successful seasons with Norwood U18s and Rostrevor's 1st XVIII and winning Intercol.

"Going through all these great experiences together has been fantastic," Jacob says.

Ben, who is known for his pace, goal-kicking and ability to take strong contested marks, impressed at this year's Draft combine, finishing in the top eight in three of the nine events, displaying to clubs his prospective talent as a forward.

Luke's selection by Fremantle comes just days after giving his final Head Prefect address at Rostrevor College's Graduation Dinner.

Recognised as much for his leadership skills as his football talents, Luke captained the U18 State team to victory in the National AFL Championships in July and was named Most Valuable Player. He was later named Vice Captain of the All-Australian side.

He says his time at Rostrevor and experiences as College Prefect and football captain have enabled him to develop his leadership skills.

"I have team skills, that's why I love football," Valente says.

"The clubs talk a lot about culture and leadership. I guess that's another string to your bow when it comes to the Draft."

It has been an intense few weeks for the three, who graduated on Thursday having just finished their final exams. Both Luke and Jacob have also gained accolades for their academic achievements and are tracking towards ATARs in the 90s.

Rostrevor Principal Brian Schumacher describes the three as exceptional individuals who have remained well grounded and modest despite their sporting and academic achievements.

“All of us at the College wish them and their families well as they end one great journey at Rostrevor and begin another with their AFL careers,” he says.

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