



DRAFTEE FANTASY ANALYSIS

2023






















Welcome to our draftee fantasy analysis document for 2023!

We've crunched all the underage and state league numbers to deliver you a comprehensive fantasy analysis of every draftee.

This document features AFL Fantasy averages from the league where draftees played their football in 2023. It will also tell you what type of player they are in terms of position, how they build their fantasy scores, where they sit regarding team selection, along with other information that should be factored in when deciding whether to pick them in your fantasy team.

Use this document to find the next big player in AFL Fantasy.

Document Key:

Position:	Scoring:	Relevance:	Other:
 Plays up forward	 Gets high possession numbers	 Is a chance to debut in round 1	 Missed games through injury last season
 Plays in the ruck	 Kicks goals	 Should score well early in their career	 Is a mature age player
 Plays an inside midfielder role	 Mostly uses the ball by foot	 Might take time - stash for the future	 Has senior experience
 Plays an outside midfielder role	 Takes lots of marks	 Unlikely to be a fantasy player	 Has previously featured on a club's list
 Plays down back	 Gets high tackle numbers	 Hard to tell at this stage	
 Plays as a key defender or forward	 Gets intercept possessions		

NATIONAL DRAFT

HARLEY REID



Selection:

Pick 1 - National Draft (West Coast Eagles)

Position:

MID/FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Bendigo Pioneers	6	10.8	7.7	4.3	3.3	0	2	84.5
VFL	Carlton	2	12	5	5.5	6	0	0	81
VFL	Essendon	1	13	11	7	4	0	0	99
U18 Champs	Vic Country	4	11	8.5	4.3	2.5	0	1.3	80.8

Harley Reid was the standout player in this year's draft. Thriving in challenging matchups, he's renowned for his contested work, aerial prowess, and trademark fend-offs, establishing himself as someone who can play anywhere on the ground. With consecutive All-Australian honours and a good showing in the VFL, his talent is beyond doubt. In terms of fantasy, he maintained an average of 84 AFL Fantasy points in both the Talent League and VFL, though a limited role in his first VFL game resulted in a score of 46 affecting his season average. He played forward a lot in the Talent League, so expect bigger fantasy numbers as he develops as a midfielder.

COLBY McKERCHER



Selection:

Pick 2 - National Draft (North Melbourne Kangaroos)

Position:

MID

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Tasmania Devils	9	15.7	13.8	4.9	3.8	0	1.3	111.7
U18 Champs	Allies	4	16.5	16.3	5.8	4	0	0.8	117.3

Colby McKercher epitomizes the modern AFL midfielder with his remarkable blend of speed and endurance. Although he usually starts on the wing at centre bounces, he's a stoppage specialist, known for his clean hands and quick exits. His exceptional clearance work, combined with his outside play, results in high disposal numbers almost every time he takes the field. In terms of AFL Fantasy, he put up some big numbers this year, with his best score of 167 points coming off a 41-disposal game against Oakleigh Chargers. He suffered from a foot injury towards the end of the year but still managed to score over 100 points in 6 of his 9 games in 2023.

JED WALTER



Selection:

Pick 3 - National Draft (Gold Coast Suns)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	FF	FA	G	B	AF
Talent League	Suns Academy	4	11.2	7	5.5	3	2.2	2	2	4.5	1.5	103
U18 Champs	Allies	4	9.8	3.3	7	1.8	0.8			2.8		77.5

Standing at 194 cm and 97 kg, Jed Walter is known for his commanding presence as a forward who claimed the centre-half forward position in the under 18 All-Australian side. He averaged 104 AFL Fantasy points across 4 games in the talent league, with his best score of 144 coming off a massive 8 goal haul against NT Thunder in round 6. Walter's next best score was 112 points off the back of 6 goals against GWV Rebels. His robust physique and scoring prowess position him as a likely candidate for games early in his career, but like all key forwards, will need some time before he becomes fantasy relevant.

ZANE DUURSMAS



Selection:

Pick 4 - National Draft (North Melbourne Kangaroos)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Gippsland Power	12	12.8	6.5	6.3	3.2	0	2.8	101.4
VFL	Casey	2	5.5	5.5	1.5	1	0	0	36
U18 Champs	Vic Country	4	9.3	6	3.8	3.5	0	1.8	76.3

Zane Duursma looks like a class act with recruiters going as far as calling him a 'Rolls-Royce'. He used his aerial ability and his immaculate skills to bring a touch of class to Gippsland Power's forward line in 2023. He's dangerous in front of the big sticks, highlighted by his 2.8 goal per game average in the Talent League this season. Just like Harley Reid and a few other draftees, Duursma took his game to the VFL playing for Casey Demons to test himself against senior bodies. Whilst he didn't star in either of his two games, he didn't look out of place with his best performance being a 10-disposal game scoring 38 AFL Fantasy points.

NICK WATSON



Selection:

Pick 5 - National Draft (Hawthorn Hawks)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Eastern Ranges	9	13.3	6.7	3.9	2.1	0	1.2	81.9
U18 Champs	Vic Metro	4	7.5	4.8	3.3	1	0	3.5	69.8

Renowned as the best small forward in the Talent League, Nick Watson brings an undeniable X-factor to the field. Not limited to his natural forward role, Watson also showcased his versatility by spending part of the year on the wing. His standout performance came against the Northern Knights, where he dominated with 34 disposals, 6 marks, and 2 goals, culminating in an impressive 130 AFL Fantasy points. However, we know that small forwards typically don't rank highly in fantasy scoring, and I don't think Watson is an exception to the rule. His season was also marred by injuries, and he may take some time to make an impact at the AFL level.

RYLEY SANDERS



Selection:

Pick 6 - National Draft (Western Bulldogs)

Position:

MID

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Sandringham	9	10.1	20.4	3.9	5.3	0	0.6	106.8
U18 Champs	Allies	4	12	23.8	6.3	4	0	1	125

Ryley Sanders is a standout midfielder in this draft, known for his remarkable consistency and production. He possesses a hardnosed approach to the game and loves the contested work. He cracks in hard and to get the ball out to his teammates, bringing them into the game. His prowess was recognized with the Larke Medal at the underage carnival. In AFL Fantasy terms, Sanders's reliability is evident, with his lowest score being 87 points and achieving six 100+ scores in just nine games. His best performance came against the Northern Knights in the finals, where he racked up 133 points through 29 disposals, 10 tackles, and 7 marks.

CALEB WINDSOR



Selection:

Pick 7 - National Draft (Melbourne Demons)

Position:

MID

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Eastern Ranges	16	12.8	6.6	4.2	3.9	0	0.7	83.7
U18 Champs	Vic Metro	4	10.3	5.5	3.5	3.5	0	0.3	66

Caleb Windsor excels as an outside midfielder, known for his remarkable speed and agility, making him almost uncatchable when he's in possession of the ball. However, as he's usually on the outside, Windsor is not one to frequently engage in contested ball situations which can limit his fantasy potential. In fact, during the National Championships, he recorded a 74 percent rate of uncontested possession. His strength lies in damaging the opposition by receiving the ball on the outside. He achieved three scores above 100 in 2023, with his highest being 164 against the Lions Academy, a game in which he had 31 disposals and 16 marks.

DANIEL CURTIN



Selection:

Pick 8 - National Draft (Adelaide Crows)

Position:

FWD/DEF

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
WAFL Colts	Claremont	6	13.8	6.2	3.3	4	0.8	0.7	80
WAFL League	Claremont	6	8.2	8.7	4.3	1.2	0	0	59.5
U18 Champs	Western Australia	4	15.5	8	6.5	4.5	0	0.3	101.8

Daniel Curtin, a key position player known for his versatility, excels at both ends of the ground and even had a stint as a midfielder in 2023. He truly shines as a key defender, using his aerial prowess for interceptions. In the WAFL Colts, Curtin's top performance netted 127 AFL Fantasy points, featuring 26 disposals and 11 tackles. However, he also recorded 3 out of 6 scores below 65 points, indicative of some inconsistency in terms of fantasy. At the senior level, his scoring dipped noticeably, which is probably a reflection of what we'll see in the AFL. He went big at state level, playing all sorts of roles, but I have a feeling he'll end up as a key defender.

ETHAN READ



Selection:

Pick 9 - National Draft (Gold Coast Suns)

Position:

RUC

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Suns Academy	4	14	6	6	2.5	19.5	0	96.8
VFL	Gold Coast	1	10	2	5	1	5	0	60
U18 Champs	Allies	4	12	9.5	7.5	3	13	0.3	99.8

Standing at 200cm in height, Ethan Read is a unique talent, essentially functioning as a midfielder despite being the best ruck prospect in the draft. Read's ability to take marks around the ground sets him apart, and he also excels at finding the footy, averaging 20 disposals both in the Talent League and at the National Championships. He is remarkably clean below his knees and uses the ball well. In the Talent League, he maintained an average of 96.8 points across four games, never scoring below 86 points. He played one VFL game for the Gold Coast Suns as a forward and scored 60 points.

NATE CADDY



Selection:

Pick 10 - National Draft (Essendon Bombers)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Northern Knights	9	10.4	5.9	6.2	2.4	0	2.8	86.6
VFL	Carlton	1	4	4	2	2	0	2	48
U18 Champs	Vic Metro	3	5.7	6	3.7	4.7	0.7	2	70

Caddy is a key forward, notable for his agility and strong marking ability. Dominant in aerial contests, Caddy's prowess was on full display during his stint with the Northern Knights, where he kicked 25 goals across nine games. In the Talent League, he maintained a solid average of 86 AFL Fantasy points, with his peak performance coming in round 11 against the Bendigo Pioneers. In that game, he took 9 marks and kicked 6 goals, accumulating 25 disposals. Caddy's potential was further highlighted in his one-game appearance for Carlton in the VFL, where he kicked 2 goals against more seasoned players, demonstrating his ability to compete with stronger bodies.

CONNOR O'SULLIVAN



Selection:

Pick 11 - National Draft (Geelong Cats)

Position:

DEF

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Murray Bushrangers	9	11.1	9.3	7	3.2	1	0.3	88.2
U18 Champs	Allies	4	9.5	8.3	8.3	1	0.3	0	72.8

Connor O'Sullivan exhibited remarkable defensive talents as a key tall, securing the Allies' MVP at the national championships. His aerial ability and agility underscore his defensive prowess. At 198cm and 92kg, O'Sullivan's adaptability extends forward, showcasing his diverse game. He posted three 100+ scores, averaging 88.2 in the Talent League, which gives us a glimmer of hope on his scoring potential in AFL Fantasy. His best game came against Sandringham Dragons, scoring 111 points with 7 marks, 5 tackles and 25 disposals but as a key defender, there's uncertainty if this scoring ability will translate to AFL level.

PHOENIX GOTHARD



Selection:

Pick 12 - National Draft (GWS Giants)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Murray Bushrangers	10	9.8	6.1	4.1	3.7	0	0.9	71.5
U18 Champs	Western Australia	4	11.8	5	4.5	2.5	0	0.3	71

Gothard is a small forward who not only contributes to scoring but also gets involved in attacks and sets up his teammates inside 50. Coming into the draft, he is recognized as one of the more promising small forwards, though this role typically doesn't translate to high fantasy scoring. Nevertheless, in the Talent League, he played 10 games and scored above 70 points in eight of these matches. Notably, in his final game of the season, he was injured with a score of 16, which raises his average to a more respectable 77.8 if excluded. In time, he could become a valuable contributor in the F5 position, so consider picking him late and stashing him for future.

KOLTYN THOLSTRUP



Selection:

Pick 13 - National Draft (Melbourne Demons)

Position:

MID/FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
WAFL League	Subiaco	10	7.9	3	3.5	2.3	0	0.7	53.5
WAFL Reserves	Subiaco	1	8	2	3	3	0	1	57
U18 Champs	Western Australia	3	13.7	5	6	2	0	0.3	75.7

Playing a lot of senior football impacted his fantasy numbers compared to other draftees in 2023, as he was competing against bigger bodies for most of the year. However, this experience should provide him with an advantage when facing more experienced players at the AFL level early in his career. He was used as an undersized key forward for most of his senior games in 2023 but played further up the ground during the Under 18 Championships, which saw a slight uptick in fantasy scoring. While there is some room for improvement in his game, I believe Tholstrup is more likely to be a high-impact player with X-factor rather than a fantasy option.

JAKE ROGERS



Selection:

Pick 14 - National Draft (Gold Coast Suns)

Position:

MID

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Suns Academy	4	10	15.5	2.5	6.2	0	0.2	95.8
VFL	Gold Coast Suns	3	1.7	5	0.3	2.3	0	0.3	27.7
U18 Champs	Allies	4	11	11.5	2.3	5.3	0	0.3	84

Jake Rogers draws comparisons to Touk Miller, sharing attributes as a tenacious smaller midfielder with strong tackling skills. Initially, he's expected to commence his career as a forward, as breaking into Gold Coast's competitive midfield might take time and he'll need to build his endurance base. Rogers boasts clean skills, excelling at breaking away from stoppages and navigating traffic effectively. He didn't score below 90 AFL Fantasy points in his four talent league games. However, his three VFL appearances at an average of 27.7 points, hint at reduced midfield exposure at the senior level. He might be a stash option for the future.

JORDAN CROFT



Selection:

Pick 15 - National Draft (Western Bulldogs)

Position:

FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Calder Cannons	11	6.5	3.6	3.5	2	3.1	2.1	60.8
U18 Champs	Vic Metro	3	6.7	2.7	3.3	1.7	5.3	1.3	53.3

Jordan Croft (the son of Matthew) managed to net an impressive 23 goals from 11 games in 2023, showcasing an exceptional blend of speed, athleticism, agility, and forward craft. He possesses good aerial ability, with approximately one-third of his average disposals coming from marks. Jordan is also a versatile player, often pinch-hitting in the ruck. In the Talent League, he maintained an average of 61 AFL Fantasy points, with a standout performance of 110 points (10 marks and 3 goals) against Gippsland Power. However, it's important to note that Jordan has had only two games where he scored over 70 AFL Fantasy points, so he isn't on my radar.

WILLIAM GREEN



Selection:

Pick 16 - National Draft (Sydney Swans)

Position:

RUC

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Northern Knights	13	7.1	4.2	3.3	2.4	22.8	0.2	71.5
U18 Champs	Vic Metro	3	4.7	7.3	2.3	3	24.3	0	72.7

Will Green is one of the top ruck prospects in this year's draft. He excels at stoppages and demonstrates exceptional ruck craft. However, Green's limitation is that his contribution is mainly in the ruck area. Unlike better fantasy ruckmen who have emerged from the Talent League, he doesn't frequently accumulate possessions around the ground. His statistics are solid in hit-outs, but he averaged only 11 disposals per game in 2023. Considering this, it's difficult to foresee him making an impact in fantasy unless he can develop his game to find the ball more.

JAMES LEAKE



Selection:

Pick 17 - National Draft (GWS Giants)

Position:

DEF

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Tasmania Devils	11	11.2	4.9	3.8	3.1	0	1.5	75.6
U18 Champs	Allies	4	9.5	6.8	5	1.8	0	0	61

A highly versatile half-back flanker with a skill set that allows him to shine as an intercept defender. Capable of taking strong marks across the half-back line, Leake also possesses the ability to transition into attack. He demonstrated versatility by moving forward later in the season and effectively becoming a target in the forward line despite being undersized. His ball handling and decision-making is also a notable strength. He averaged 75 points in the Talent League, with fluctuating scores based on his on-field role. His standout performance was against Eastern Ranges in the finals, racking up an impressive 109 AFL Fantasy points.

DARCY WILSON



Selection:

Pick 18 - National Draft (St Kilda Saints)

Position:

MID/FWD

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Murray Bushrangers	11	16.2	9.2	5.8	2.5	0	1.5	102.5
U18 Champs	Vic Country	4	10.3	5.8	2.8	3	0	1	70.8

Possessing good athleticism and running ability, Wilson excels on the outside and as a high half-forward flanker. He also possesses a strong overhead mark and managed to hit the scoreboard in all but two of his 11 games in 2023. He's adept in traffic and can kick off both feet, making him a dangerous prospect who is hard to stop. In fantasy football terms, he had a consistent year in the Talent League, scoring over 80 points in every game except one. He posted six scores of 100 or more, with his best performance coming in round 1 against Gippsland Power. In this game he kicked 3 goals and amassed 29 possessions, 25 of which were kicks.

WILL McCABE



Selection:

Pick 19 - National Draft (Hawthorn Hawks)

Position:

DEF

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
SANFL Reserves	Central Districts	1	11	2	10	0	0	0	68
SANFL U18s	Central Districts	9	14.6	7.2	5.9	1.3	0	0.4	82.3
U18 Champs	South Australia	3	7	4.3	3.3	3.3	0	0	53.7

Will McCabe is another key defender in this year's draft crop. He's an athletic tall with impressive aerial ability, enabling him to take numerous marks in defence. In 2023, he played one Reserves game and impressively took 10 marks, demonstrating his strong set of hands. At the underage level for Central Districts, he posted decent fantasy scores. He recorded only one score under 50 and managed to score over 70 in all but one of his other games. His best performance was a 30-disposal, 9-mark, and 116-point game in round 5 against Sturt. He could be one of the better key defenders in the draft but that's not saying much. Wait a few years before drafting him.

TAYLOR GOAD



Selection:

Pick 20 - National Draft (North Melbourne Kangaroos)

Position:

RUC

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
SANFL U18s	South Adelaide	13	6.4	4	2.2	2.3	21.2	0.2	59.5
U18 Champs	South Australia	4	4	3.3	0.8	2.8	16.5	0.3	45

Taylor Goad is a ruckman who possesses good speed and agility and is comfortable with contested play. What particularly stands out about Goad is his follow-up work; he consistently remains involved in the game. However, he must improve on his endurance and football intelligence if he is to succeed at the AFL level, which will likely require a season or two in the reserves. If you're considering drafting Goad in your keeper leagues this year, be prepared for a potentially long wait before he debuts. Even then, there's no certainty that he'll be a valuable fantasy player. For now, it might be best to avoid drafting him and keeping an eye on his development.

CHARLIE EDWARDS



Selection:

Pick 21 - National Draft (Adelaide Crows)

Position:

MID

LEAGUE	CLUB	GP	K	H	M	T	HO	G	AF
Talent League	Sandringham Dragons	12	9.3	7.8	3.3	2.8	0	0.6	67

Charlie Edwards has emerged unexpectedly to be selected in this year's draft crop. He didn't get the chance to play any football at the Under 18 Championships, but his late-season form was impressive enough to earn him an invite to the State Draft Combine. However, he wasn't invited to the National Draft Combine. Edwards is known for his clean hands, quick burst speed, and matching skillset, but he still needs to work on maintaining high-level performance consistently. He had a slow start to the 2023 season, averaging only 47.2 points from his first 5 games, but he significantly improved from round 13 onwards, averaging 81 points in his last 7 games.