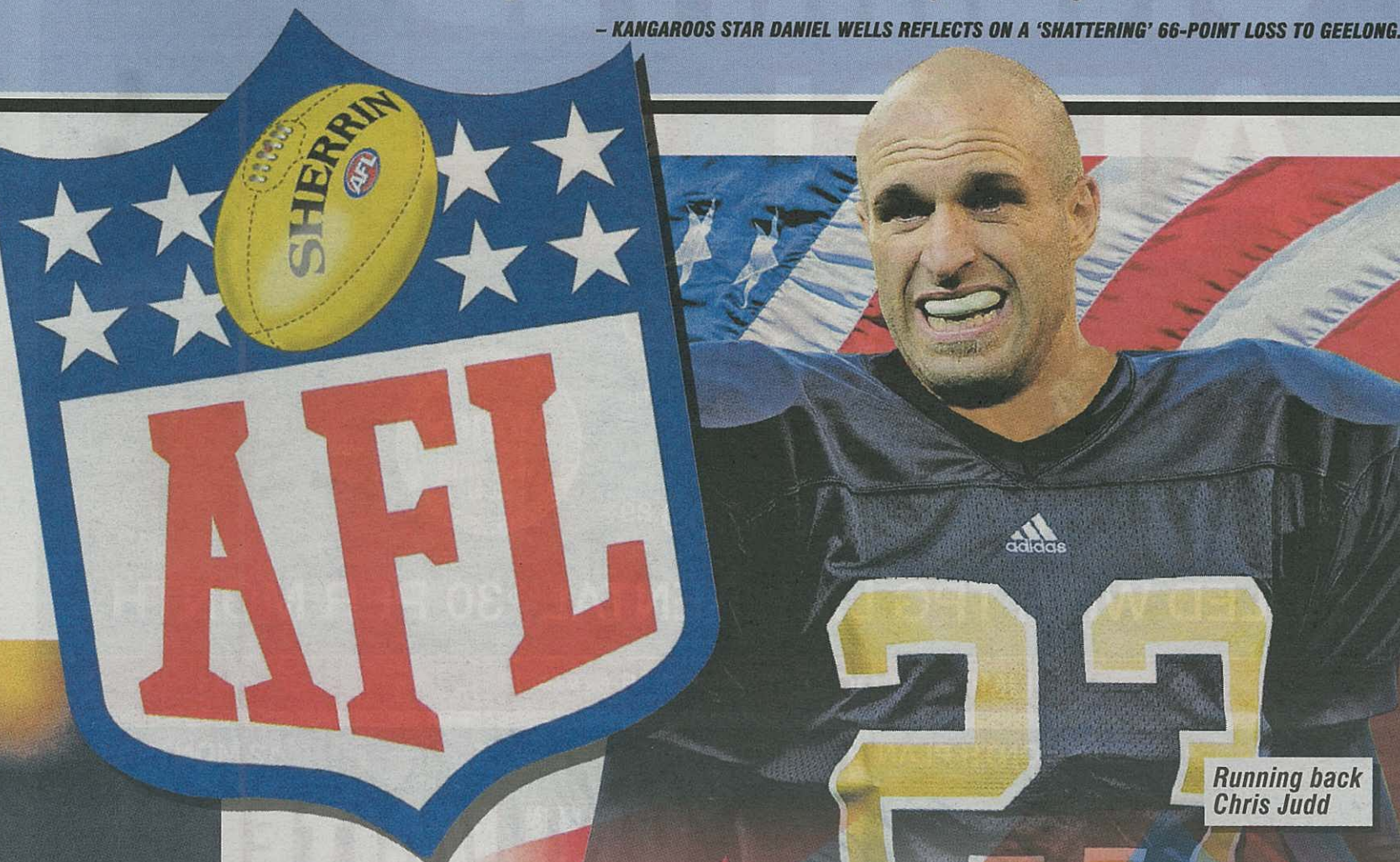


**"Last year and this year our main focus has been to play well against the top-four teams, and we crumbled again. The players have taken it in a bad way ... and there's not much more you can say."**

**- KANGAROOS STAR DANIEL WELLS REFLECTS ON A 'SHATTERING' 66-POINT LOSS TO GEELONG.**



**Running back  
Chris Judd**

# BREAKING THE CODE

How would an American football team look if you had your pick of AFL stars to fill it? mX asked Gridiron Victoria president Dan Levin and Shae McNamara

## OFFENCE

### QUARTERBACK

**Levin's law:** A leader with good vision and a strong arm. Between 188cm and 198cm.

**Shae's switch:** Fremantle's **Matthew Pavlich**. He reads the game well, a great leader, makes and creates plays for his team, just an all-round stud.

### RUNNING BACKS

**Levin's law:** Tough, take a lot of hits, explosive, evasive but not electrifying pace. He's either going to run someone over or make a cut, a step and get away from tacklers. Stocky build, 176-185cm.

**Shae's switch:** Carlton's **Chris Judd** and Gold Coast's **Gary Ablett**. They both find ways to get through the opposition either by brute force, agility or speed. Their vision is second to none and they make plays out of nothing. A huge factor is that they are incredibly hard to tackle due to their amazing core strength.

### IT'S HAPPENING HERE

Gridiron has been played in Victoria since 1985. There are more than 600 registered participants with Gridiron Victoria, with more than 500 players at the junior and senior levels. Saverio Rocca suited up for a local game before he was drafted to the Philadelphia Eagles.

More info at [www.gridironvictoria.com.au](http://www.gridironvictoria.com.au)

## RECEIVERS

**Levin's law:** Fast, good hands, very quick. Taller, 185-188cm. There are smaller receivers - typically the NFL likes them 182cm or taller.

**Shae's switch:** Richmond's **Jack Riewoldt** and Hawthorn's **Lance Franklin**. Both have an amazing way to find the ball in flight. They're pure athletes that can get away from their opposition. They're fearless in the air and their attack on the ball. When they have the ball, just pray they fumble with it because you won't stop them.

### TIGHT END

**Levin's law:** The all rounder, he has to block and catch. They're pretty big, but they also have to be agile. From 188cm to 192cm or bigger, and about 120kg.

**Shae's switch:** Geelong's **Brad Ottens**. I think with his size, strength, speed, agility for his size, hands and his knack to want to bang with the opposition, he'd be a great tight end.

### OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

**Levin's law:** These guys are big, powerful, with good footwork. Anywhere between 182cm and 209cm, from 130-150 kg. They have to stop the guys in front of them - and protect the QB and block for the running backs.

**Shae's switch:** Fremantle's **Aaron Sandilands**. He's just a beast and far too athletic at his size. He would be a headache to get around to the quarter back.

## DEFENCE

### DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

**Levin's law:** Pretty much the same as the offensive line, it's just they play defence. Typically they're the same build, they're a bit faster, typically more explosive, as defensive players have to react.

**Shae's switch:** Sydney's **Shane Mumford**. He would be an absolute pain in the neck for the offensive line with his size, speed and brute power. He would really hurt the quarterback.

### LINEBACKERS

**Levin's law:** Your smarter defensive players, they've got to be able to react quickly, read the play, very good lateral mobility, very aggressive, guys who like to hit. About 100kg to 110kg, and from 176cm to 188cm.

**Shae's switch:** Collingwood's **Dale Thomas**. He's obviously not the right size, but his characteristics match. He has mastered the art of tackling and hunting the opposition. It would be an offensive coordinator's nightmare trying to stop him.

### CORNERBACK

**Levin's law:** Smaller, quick, very good jumping ability. Can be a bit shorter - 176cm to 182cm, and able to change direction very quickly.

**Shae's switch:** Collingwood's **Harry O'Brien**. He's a tremendous athlete and would stick on you like glue.

## SAFETY

**Levin's law:** The simplest position on the football field. Find football, kill football. The safeties are people who run at a million miles an hour and want to run through a brick wall. Typically 182cm and 85-95kg.

**Shae's switch:** Geelong's **Matthew Scarlett**. He reads the game better than anyone, and is a real spider as he gets everything in his area. He also lays a huge hit, which would scare the crap out of the opposition

### PUNTER

**Levin's law:** The kicker.

**Shae's switch:** Collingwood's **Tyson Goldsack**. He can boom the ball.



**Receiver  
Lance  
Franklin**

## PLAYERS STUNG

# Dees did it for Dean

Melbourne defender Colin Garland says the Demons' 96-point drubbing of Adelaide was a result of the players being stung by the criticism of embattled coach Dean Bailey.

Garland revealed the Demons bounced back from their damaging 54-point Round 6 loss to West Coast with the help of a fierce week on the training track and a few pointed words from Melbourne Storm legend Robbie Kearns.

"Dean can't play the game for us, as a playing group we were really stung Dean was copping a bit of criticism," Garland said.

"You don't go out and play for one particular person, we're all in it together, but you definitely want to play well for Dean because he's been so supportive of all us players.

"There was definitely a resolve there in the boys' eyes, we'd been stung all week.

"We had two or three pretty hard sessions.

"He (Kearns) just spoke about after the game being able to look your teammate in the eye. The week before we couldn't really look each other in the eye and know we'd put in a good effort."

Garland said captain Brad Green quickly moved the focus to North Melbourne after the win.

"We don't want to be the team that yo-yos with a West Coast performance to a performance like yesterday, we want to keep the same intensity every week," he said.

"We haven't proven anything yet."

## MICK GUARDED

# Cold water on hot Pies

Collingwood coach Mick Malthouse expects to be "ambushed" by an artillery of praise for the Pies by Geelong coach Chris Scott in the lead up to Friday night's blockbuster.

Collingwood and Geelong are unbeaten ahead of their Round 8 clash at the MCG.

Malthouse expected the Cats to talk up the Pies in the pre-game banter, but the veteran was handing out his own plaudits.

"I'm not going to be ambushed one little bit by (Geelong coach) Chris Scott saying 'Collingwood are this, Collingwood are that', because Geelong have been that for the last five or six years," Malthouse told SEN.

"We're not going to be misdirected, that Collingwood are the be-all and end-all to the football world.

"I know people are saying 'dominant Collingwood' - I don't think we are dominant."

Malthouse said it was too early to call Friday's game a sneak peek of this year's Grand Final.

"There's always someone who creeps up on you ... some premierships are won from a long way back," he said.

Malthouse confirmed ruckman Darren Jolly would miss the match after knee surgery.