



# It's all black and white for Ling, redheads rule

YOU don't need to have been paying close attention to know that **Cameron Ling** is a proud redhead. Every chance he gets, Geelong's flame-haired heartbeat pushes the cause of his brothers and sisters with red-hot passion. It is no secret he thinks the world would be a better place if everyone was a "Ranga". Or, as he trumpets in a new online promotion launched on YouTube yesterday, "Gingivitis! Carrot-top! Bloody Freckle! Ginger Ninja! Bloodnut!" Ling is the first of several footballers who will be encouraging fans to sign up to the AFL's official fantasy football competition, Dream Team '09, with the AFL Players Association jumping on board to help create a series of skits for YouTube. Ling's plea is a cracker: "You know, footy's come a long way over the last few years, and as part of the AFL's racial vilification rules, every Dream Team must now have a 'Ranga'. So I don't care what you call me, just as long as you pick me as your team's 'Fanta Pants'. Come on! Live the dream, and play our game!"

## Not me, mate

THIRTY players are listed in a sample team of "Rangas", which is no doubt a huge thrill for genuine copper-tops like **Dustin Fletcher**, **Matthew Bate**, **Kelvin Moore** and St Kilda's gun draftee **Tom Lynch**. But making up the numbers seems to have been a bit of a stretch, with other names in etched red pen including Swan **Craig Bolton**, Lion **Joel MacDonald**, Demon **Colin Sylvia** and the St Kilda duo **Brendon Goddard** and **Nick Dal Santo**. "I'm not sure if it's a compliment. It's definitely an interesting decision by whoever's put me in there," Dal Santo said yesterday. "I might have to dye my hair really dark just to prove a



ABOVE: Cameron Ling during his "Fanta Pants" rant on YouTube. BELOW: Colin Sylvia, Matthew Bate and Nick Dal Santo made the Ling line-up of copper-tops, but some have dubious credentials.



point." The midfielder recalls "a dyeing episode" that left him looking a bit on the fiery side in the sunlight, but while he says there is no natural carrot in his top, he confirmed that Goddard was a worthy selection. "He's definitely copper, and he's actually pretty proud of it. It's hard to hide it when it's that obvious with the pale skin."

## Brotherly love

THE second in the series will be on YouTube next week featuring a hilarious interview with Eagle **Adam Selwood**, who launches a tirade about how everyone always picks his little brother **Joel** (or "golden child", as Adam refers to him) in their fantasy teams. "Sure, he's a good player, but there's four

Selwoods -- myself, **Troy** and **Scott** are good value as well." Reminded that Joel was awarded 19 Brownlow votes in 2008, Adam loses it. "The Brownlow! (Expletive deleted)! Joel's always been the golden child. He's always had the biggest bedroom, the best meat, he's got the umpires' votes. I'm sick of it!" Adam concedes Joel did play in a flag in his first season, "but I played in a premiership too, and in Dream Team I'm 80 grand cheaper, so I'm better value"! Further sketches are still being written, but one is set to feature cult Tiger **Matthew Richardson**, and another *The Age's* own Robert Murphy and his pet dachshund, **Arthur**. To see Ling's Ranga rant, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXKMRNRTCjg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXKMRNRTCjg)



## Bolton's a headbanger

THE most important piece of equipment in the Sydney property steward's keeping made another appearance last weekend and found its way onto a familiar head. **Jude Bolton** was forced to don a helmet after suffering yet another blood-spilling belt to the noggin at Manuka Oval. But disconcertingly for Swans fans, club doctor **Nathan Gibbs** noted a switch in the usual trend that accompanies such sightings. "When the midfielders are putting their heads in the way it means they're right where the action is, and that usually correlates with a good result on the scoreboard," he said. "I must admit, we had one guy knocked out (**Ryan Brabazon**) and Jude got a bad head laceration, and we got belted on the scoreboard (by Port Adelaide), so I might have to revise that theory." While some call it "the **Brett Kirk** helmet", it was Bolton who immortalised it in the 2005 grand final against West Coast. Not that he wants to revisit the experience, and actually threw it away in the last quarter last week-

end. "I think he's still a little bit dirty about the fact he wore it in the 2005 premiership, and every picture taken after the game shows him with the headgear on."

## Buckley's a tad touchy

HAVING strode the touch football fields of Albert Park all the way to a premiership with "The Aggots" last year, **Nathan Buckley** makes another sporting comeback on Sunday as a member of one of 13 teams Channel Seven will field in the biggest event of its type in the southern hemisphere -- the Nissan/BRW Corporate Triathlon. Buckley, who shot to fame on the back of his insightful, candid columns in *The Age* (oh, and a bit of footy with Collingwood), has complemented his touch football exertions with "the



occasional run to keep me sane", and has welcomed having a focus to train for other than the upcoming C-grade season at Albert Park Touch. "I miss playing and the contest," Buckley said this week, referring to the more traditional form of football. Alongside Buckley among the 4500-plus competitors will be actor **Daniel Macpherson**, who hasn't swapped footy codes, but has moved from one cop show to another (*The Bill* to *City Homicide*).

## Hustlers outdo Hussler

THE bushfire relief effort continues to branch out. Tomorrow's Caulfield races will feature a poker tournament and all proceeds will go to the appeal, while first prize is a \$10,000 ticket into the Aussie Millions. **Brendan Fevola** and **Glenn Archer** will be among the poker-loving footballers on the 40 tables of seven, and everyone who pays the \$50 entry gets two tickets to the races, so even without Weekend Hussler, there will still be plenty of people hustling. Enter at [npl.com.au](http://npl.com.au).