

Eagles spread load

Gaff's super-sub role will be shared around: Sumich

STEVE BUTLER
MELBOURNE

West Coast young gun Andrew Gaff's days as a super-sub will soon be over because the role robs him of crucial conditioning for the long season, according to assistant coach Peter Sumich.

While Sumich said yesterday that Gaff was likely to remain the team's substitute player against Sydney at Patersons Stadium on Saturday night, the third time he will have done so in as many games to start the season, it was unlikely

he would continue in the role for much longer.

The 18-year-old, who was last year's No.4 pick at the national draft, was impressive on debut against North Melbourne after replacing the injured Chris Masten. But his efforts were even more crucial in victory over Port Adelaide last Saturday, when he had 11 telling possessions after coming on for Quinten Lynch at the 22-minute mark of the third term.

"It's an interesting one," Sumich told Melbourne radio of Gaff's role. "I suppose the first week he

played 75 minutes because we lost Masten very early so he nearly played a full game. Last week, I think it was 46 or 47 minutes.

"He probably could play as a sub for at least the next two games and then you'd have to look at it from there in playing a full game. He's had a great impact as a sub so you've got to weigh all those things up."

Sumich said Daniel Kerr had felt in better physical condition after his return against the Power than he had following two previous WAFL games for East Fremantle.

He also said hard-working forward Josh Kennedy was still a year of two shy of his best form, despite playing a strong role in Saturday's win.

He said that while the Swans had made subtle changes under new coach John Longmire, they still had the fighting spirit that underpinned their 2005 premiership under Paul Roos.

"It looks like John has put his flavour on the side and changed them slightly, but they've still got the old traits of the Sydney never-say-die attitude," he said.



RUCK OUT FOR THE SEASON

Claremont ruckman Andrew Ruck will miss the rest of the season after seriously injuring his knee early in the last quarter of Saturday's match against Peel.

Scans confirmed that Ruck had torn his anterior cruciate ligament and he will have a knee reconstruction on Monday.

A key player in Claremont's charge to last year's grand final, Ruck had been dominant in the club's wins against East Fremantle, Swan Districts and the Thunder in 2011.

He had assumed extra ruck duties for the Tigers after Tom Derickx was recruited by Richmond at last year's national draft.

Claremont football manager Dean Horsington said Ruck considered the LARS surgery that would have seen him return to playing this season, but doctors told him it wasn't possible.

"LARS was spoken about but his size and the sheer extent of the damage ruled that out," Horsington said.

Horsington said Ruck had taken yesterday's news hard but was already talking about helping out young ruckmen at the club and was likely to take on an assistant coaching role with the reserves.

FULL-TIME UMPERS ON CARDS

The AFL will introduce two full-time umpires over the next 12 months, but balked at the suggestion by Richmond coach Damien Hardwick that a move to full-time umpires would improve the regular assessment of the game's on-field officiators.

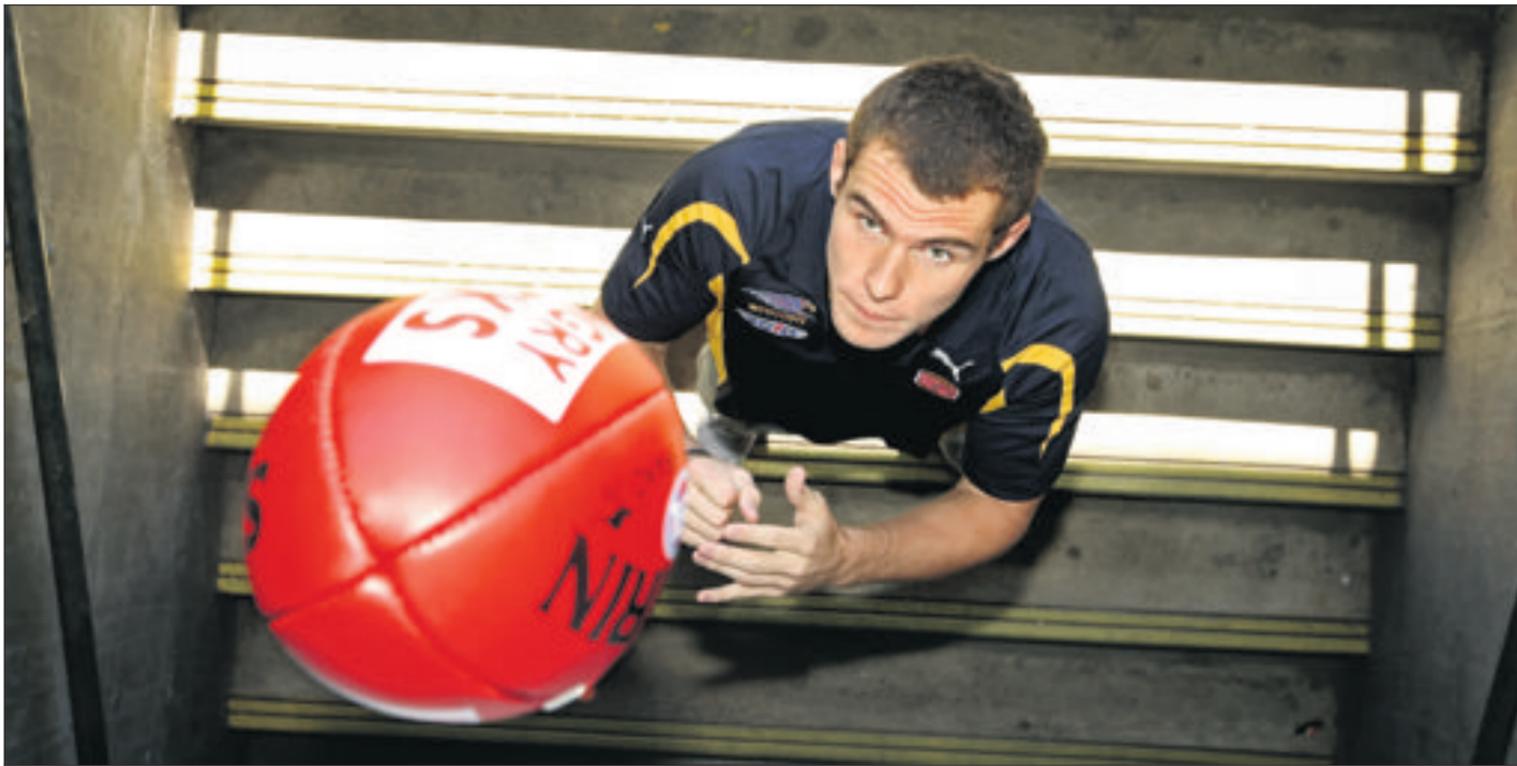
The league's football boss, Adrian Anderson, confirmed that a pilot program involving two full-time umpires should start by next season, but said he was surprised coaches were unaware of the lengthy post-mortems conducted by the AFL umpiring department after every game.

Hardwick, who refused to blame contentious umpiring decisions for Richmond's draw with St Kilda last Friday night, was backed up by premiership coach Paul Roos on Fox Sports' On The Couch on Monday night when he said that full-time umpires would be better able to methodically analyse their performances.

"The notion that umpires are not coded or ranked or made accountable for every decision is just wrong," Anderson said yesterday.

"Every umpire codes every game and is ranked accordingly."

Anderson's comments were echoed last night by his director of umpiring, Jeff Gieschen, who pointed out that all 110 AFL registered umpires were given an allowance to fund Foxtel in order to study their performances. They were also given written reports of each game they officiated in.



Time to shine: Luke Shuey has overcome two tough years at West Coast to win this week's nomination for the AFL's rising star award.

Picture: Dione Davidson

Rising star Shuey up and running at last

MICHELLE RIDLEY

West Coast midfielder Luke Shuey could hardly have had a more challenging start to his career.

After a stellar junior career with Bulleen Templestowe, the Oakleigh Chargers and Vic Metro U18s, his AFL dream took him to Perth with the Eagles' pick 18 in the 2008 national draft.

However, before he'd even made his debut, his world was turned upside down when his little sister

Mel was killed after being hit by a motorbike while crossing the road back home in Melbourne.

After time home to grieve, he returned to Perth only to face a series of injuries and illness which restricted him to just six games in a tough first two years in the system.

But it looks like he will finally get a decent run at it this season and his quick thinking, courage and solid decision-making have already stood him apart in 2011.

The 20-year-old backed up a solid

round one performance against North Melbourne with a dominant 27 disposals, six marks and three goals in West Coast's 18-point win over Port Adelaide on Saturday.

It earned him the NAB AFL Rising Star nomination for round two, and given his maturity and quality, he wouldn't be a bad bet for the top gong at the end of the season.

At the moment he is second favourite to as-yet un-nominated Gold Coast Sun David Swallow.

Shuey was honoured to be nomi-

nated but said it would not mean a lot if he finished the season poorly.

"I'll just take it in my stride, this nomination ... there's still 20 games to go. I've got a big task now to play consistent football for the rest of the year," Shuey said.

"I certainly run out every game feeling very honoured and special because I know how hard it is to play AFL football now."

Shuey, who also battled glandular fever last year, said he felt fitter than ever during Saturday's game.

home gateway

VIVIDWIRELESS

only \$39^{pm}*

all in one

4G wireless broadband & phone

- 11c local & national calls[^]
- 8GB data per month
- no fixed line required

1300 FASTER

VIVIDWIRELESS[®]
vividwireless.com.au

*Device costs extra. Limit 1 vividwireless device can be attached to each bundle plan. Data service will be slowed to 64Kbps when 8GB monthly usage allowance reached. Usage includes uploads and downloads. Unused data expires each month. Acceptable Use Policy applies. See website for full data plan details and Terms and Conditions. Check vividwireless.com.au/coverage before you buy. Coverage depends on your location and device. vividwireless broadband and phone bundles are available to residential customers only. ^Go to website for full plan details including call prices to mobiles and international destinations. Fair Use Policy applies. Triple zero emergency services: If you dial triple zero from your vividwireless connection, the service address as advised by you will be displayed to the triple zero emergency services operator. It is your responsibility to notify us of any changes to your service address. Service outages will temporarily prevent you from using the service, including dialing of triple zero. If you are a customer with a serious illness, life threatening condition or if you require an uninterrupted telephone line, you might want to consider retaining your fixed land line. Please read the Service Limitations section at vividwireless.com.au/policies for more information. ©2010 vividwireless Pty Ltd (65 137 696 461).