

THE BACK HALF ROUND 22



▶ Last week surfing legend Kelly Slater was asked to name the greatest athlete of all time. He didn't hesitate and answered Sir Donald Bradman.

The American asking the question stared blankly, thinking Kelly had some sort of weird moment.

Slater explained 'The Don' was nearly twice as good as the next batsman ever.

Which brings me to Gary Ablett and the Brownlow. He hasn't played since being injured in round 16, but this week his odds for the big prize shortened.

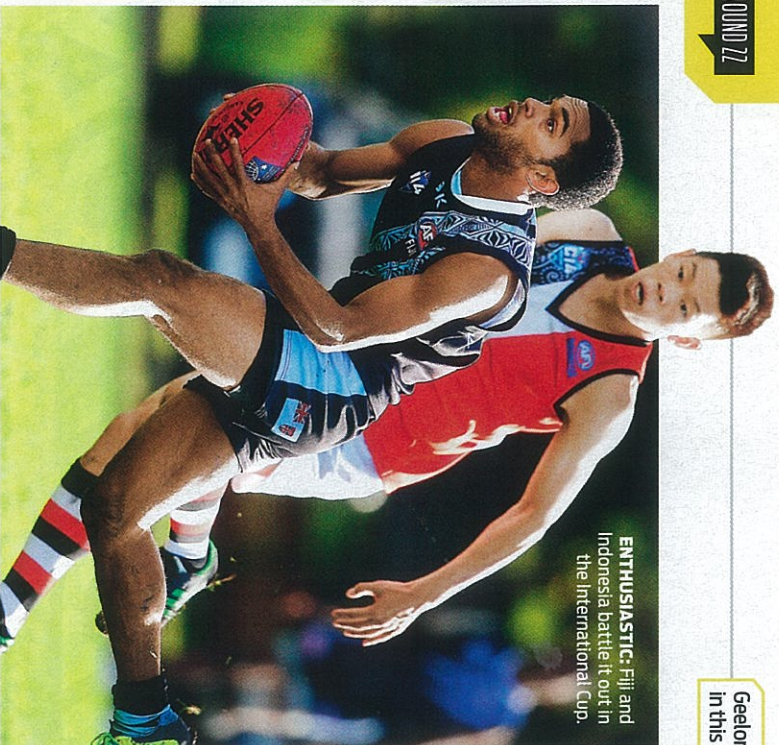
He is somehow intimidating opposition players and influencing the footy public while sitting in his Gold Coast mansion watching re-runs of *Breaking Bad* and *Seinfeld*.

If he wins this year's Brownlow, we can safely say he is almost twice as good as the next player in the AFL. So is he as good as the Don? Pale maybe ... but not the Don!

**The Headline You Won't See This Week:** Melbourne fans chip in for well-deserved end-of-year trip.



60 AFL RECORD | afl.com.au



ENTHUSIASTIC: Fiji and Indonesia battle it out in the International Cup.

Geelong star Steve Johnson (foot) unlikely to play in this week's blockbuster against Hawthorn.

Now for the big one

gruelling two weeks of competition will come to an end on Saturday for teams participating in the 2014 AFL International Cup.

Twenty-five teams – 18 men's and seven women's – from 18 countries have spent an unforgettable fortnight fighting it out to be heralded as the world's second best Australian Football nation.

The competition has provided countless highlights with teams from every corner of the globe showing their passion for our native game.

After remaining undefeated throughout the preliminary rounds, the Ireland Banshees and Canada Northern Lights will go head-to-head in the women's Grand Final at Punt Road Oval at 2.10pm.

Attention will then turn to the men's decider to be contested by Ireland and Papua New Guinea at the MCG at 4.50pm as a curtain-raiser to the blockbuster clash between Geelong and Hawthorn.

The PNG Mosquitos scraped into the semi-finals after an unexpected loss to South Africa in the preliminary rounds, but made amends by overpowering pre-tournament favourite New Zealand to secure a Grand Final berth.

With former Richmond rookie Gideon Simon and Apsley (NEAFL) hard nut John James Laval leading the way, the Mosquitos will be a difficult proposition for the well-drilled Irish outfit.

The Warriors secured the 2011 International Cup by defeating PNG and will rely on a bevy of key calls if they are to defend their title. Padraig Lucey, Dominic Joyce and captain Mick Finn have provided plenty of headaches for opposition teams and are expected to be dangerous against the fleet-footed Mosquitos.

At the other of the table, it's been a tough initiation for Indonesia and Pakistan, who were competing in their first AFL International Cup. But despite a few heavy losses, their unbridled enthusiasm for Australian Football has proved a highlight of the tournament, particularly Pakistan's win over India.

More information on the International Cup can be found by visiting [afl14.com.au](http://afl14.com.au).

UNRAVEL THE PLAYER?

For example: "TAKE SUGARY TABLET TWICE DAILY" Includes the letters to make the name Gary Ablett.

The surname of a Brisbane Lions player is hidden in the sentence below. Can you find it?

DENHAD COCKROACHPLAGUE.

SEE ANSWER ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 62

MIXING FUN WITH REAL ISSUES

▶ It might be a rollicking read from start to finish, but Fox Swift takes on *The Unbeatables* pulls no punches when it comes to serious subjects.

This laugh-out-loud sequel to Fox Swift again combines the sporting prowess of Hawthorn champ Cyril Rioli with the wonderfully wacky words of David Lawrence and cheeky cartoons by Jo Gill into a great book for young readers.

After all the fun of last season, 12-year-old football star and captain of the Davinal Diggers Fox Swift can't wait to lace up his boots and get back into footy.

His team is a bit unconventional – for one thing their mascot is a real live kangaroo – and with AFL superstar Rioli helping them out and the tireless efforts of their coach Mr Scott, the young Diggers always give it their best shot.

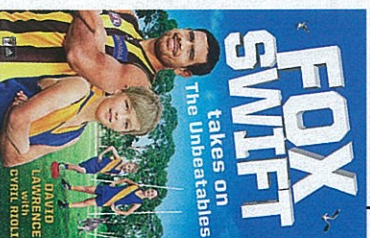
But Mace Writer and his father Miles are determined to stop Fox and his friends from winning this year's premiership and have hatched an evil plan to steal the flag. With the help of Mace's slow-witted sidekick Vince, the Writers throw dirty tricks, detentions and even a rat plague at the Diggers.

This book tackles some big issues, including racial intolerance, bullying, cheating and bad sportsmanship, but has a lot of fun along the way and manages to convey the importance of honesty, acceptance and teamwork.

It is aimed at footy fans aged between nine and 12, but there is plenty for kids of all ages – and a few laughs for parents, too – whether they are passionate about football or just enjoy a good yarn.

BROWNYN WILKIE

Fox Swift takes on *The Unbeatables*, by David Lawrence and Cyril Rioli, published by The Slatery Media Group. RRP \$16.95



FATHER'S DAY



\$10 OFF any Nike polo, 4" & Benassi slide c



Matchup Polo \$40, 4" Woven Short \$40, Benassi Swc

BRING IN THIS PA

Offers available 22 August until 29 August

SA	VIC	WA	TAS
Hallett Cove 08 8381 4717	Morwell	Whittorc	Kingsto
Altona 03 9314 4843	Pakenh		
Bairnsdale 03 5152 3661	Parkmo		
Bendigo 03 5442 4555	Ringwo		
Boronia 03 9762 5889	Rosebu		
Brandon Park 03 9560 1881	Sale		
Broadmeadows 03 9309 5182	Sheppa		
Caroline Springs 03 8390 1235	Southla		
Cranbourne 03 5995 2122	Sunbur		
Deer Park 03 9360 4755	Sunshir		
Epping 03 9408 6211	Sydenh		
Karlingal 03 9789 1626	Victoria		
Lakes Entrance 03 5155 4391	Waverle		
Maribyrnong 03 9317 9347	Werribe		
Melton 03 9746 7300			
Mildura 03 5022 8699			
Morrington 03 5973 4405			

www.sportscos.com.au