

Star Crow Patrick Dangerfield will be monitored after being cleared of major knee damage.



**LEHMO'S LOGIC**

► I have said for many years that you can judge a person based on when they decide to get married. My fiancée says this is ridiculous and completely unfair. I say she needs to get some perspective.

The AFL fixture has been heavily criticised this year, but there is no scheduling disaster greater than a September wedding.

Unless it's midweek, what the hell are you thinking? Do you want anyone there? Do you want a room full of distracted footy lovers who care more about frees and scores than vows and dance floors!

I have been invited to a September 20 wedding ... when the Hawks could well be playing a preliminary final. Are the happy couple seriously expecting fans of competing teams to attend?

I'm getting married on December 29. Yes, during the **Boxing Day Test**, but I'm guessing we'll roll the Indians in three days!

**The Headline You Won't See This Week:** Grumpy Cat to be offered Carlton coaching job.



Listen to Brig and Lehmo, 6-9am weekdays on GOLD104.3

**KIRK'S ADVENTURE**

**Football rules the world**

There is one quote that resonates most with former Sydney Swans champion Brett Kirk when he reflects on his family's incredible worldwide football adventure.

"If the world was one big footy field, everything would be all right," he said. It's a profound statement from the new film *Aussie Rules The World*, in which Sydney filmmaker Michael Stringer McIntyre tracked the Kirk family's six-month journey to 20 countries.

The film also features Adam Goodes and Bachar Houli, who talk about their path to the AFL, and men of influence such as Andrew Demetriou, Mike Sheahan and Eddie McGuire.

As part of Kirk's role as the AFL's International Ambassador in 2011, the family was sent on a mission to explore and share the footy gospel, and what the retired footballer found was Australian Football was much more than just a game, it was a pathway to unite communities and break down barriers.

Along the journey, Kirk, his wife Hayley, son Indhi, 6, twin daughters Memphis and Tallulah, 4, and Sadie, 2, found themselves on the war-torn streets of Jerusalem, where they met the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Team.

"This film really captures the essence and the spirit of our game and the joy it brings and the barriers it breaks down," Kirk told the *AFL Record*.

"It connects people and that's what I love about it and that's why I've been intimately involved in it since I was a young boy.

"With the horrible things that are happening in the world at the moment, there is an inspiring story about a team that's made up of half Israelis and half Palestinian players.

"There's a really powerful quote in the film, from an Israeli player, 'if the world was one big footy field, everything would be all right', and it just sits with me now."

The hunger and drive for footy in some of the world's most remote places surprised Kirk, as he admitted he was "blown away" by how other cultures had embraced Australia's native game.



**This game brought so much joy**

BRETT KIRK

In particular, he was impressed with how easily kids in South Africa adapted to the oval-shaped ball and predicted AFL clubs might unearth a few "rough diamonds" from the region in the future.

"I can vividly remember being on a dirt track in Johannesburg, some of the townships we visited where the kids had absolutely nothing," Kirk recalled.

"But this game brought so much joy. The way they move and their instinctive reactions to the ball and evasiveness – they were picking up this game really well. They have a really raw grassroots level."

Back home in Western Australia, where Kirk is working as an assistant coach with Fremantle, the experience has had a long lasting effect on his children.

"My kids have been really imprinted by some of the lessons we learnt overseas," he said. **B**

NAT EDWARDS

VISIT AUSSIERULESTHEWORLD.COM FOR SCREENING DETAILS.

**UNRAVEL THE PLAYER ?**

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

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

**ASPRO SALES ARE COASTING.**

SEE ANSWER ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 62

**LONG LIVE THE KING**

► *King Richard – The Story of Dick Reynolds* is the product of perhaps the most exhaustive study of an Australian Football figure.

The result of 190 interviews and four years of painstaking research by first-time biographer Dan Eddy, the 628-page examination of the Essendon legend is brimming with fresh insights into the man, the footballer, his time and the game itself.

Fittingly, this terrific tome has been released close to the 80th anniversary of the first of Reynolds' three Brownlow Medals in 1934, when he became the only teenager to win the award.

Remarkably, as Eddy reminds us, this triumph came just 18 months after Reynolds was rejected for a second time by Carlton, the club he supported as a boy.

Eddy dissects the controversy surrounding that count, which denied Fitzroy rival Haydn Bunton a third Brownlow in four years.

Eddy also provides detailed examinations of the 11 Grand Finals (for four flags) that Reynolds led the Bombers into as a playing or non-playing coach, including his best-afield effort in the 1942 triumph over Richmond, which set the scene for a brutal response from the Tigers in the following year's Grand Final.

Eddy presents Reynolds as a humble genius and a gentleman, but doesn't sidestep criticisms of his coaching, which were particularly rife after Melbourne upset Essendon in 1948.

Of interest is a chapter titled 'Dethroned' – an enlightening reconstruction of Reynolds' sacking in 1960 in favour of former superstar John Coleman, including the role played by Allan Hird, the grandfather of Essendon's suspended coach James Hird.

BEN COLLINS

KING RICHARD – THE STORY OF DICK REYNOLDS. BY DAN EDDY. PUBLISHED BY THE SLATTERY MEDIA GROUP. RRP \$39.95.

