Kevin Sheehan’s top 40 2017 NAB AFL Draft prospects

AFL National and International Talent Manager Kevin Sheehan today announced his top 40 prospects ahead of the 2017 NAB AFL Draft to be held in Sydney on Friday, November 24.

Sheehan said the Draft marks the start of the 2018 football calendar.

“This year the Draft selections are wide open, which is testament to the evenness and high standard of the young players entering the AFL,” he said.

“Debate continues on who will be selected in which order for the first round which makes the event very exciting.

“Club recruiting staff are still working hard after months of preparation to confirm their selections, while the players and their families are counting down the days as they prepare for the next step in the AFL talent pathway.”

This year’s Top 40 features Select Future Forces trading cards that promote the NAB AFL Draft. The cards feature 92 Draft prospects and are now on sale.

Please find attached, in alphabetical order, profiles of Kevin Sheehan’s top 40 2017 NAB AFL Draft prospects.

2017 NAB AFL Draft details:
When: Friday, November 24
Where: Hall 2, Riverina Avenue, Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park
Time: 6.00pm AEDT
1. **Oscar Allen**  
West Perth/Whitfords  
19.3.1999  
Height: 191cm  Weight: 83kg

Mobile tall forward who is strong overhead and has innate goal sense. Averaged 15.8 disposals, 6.2 marks and 2.8 goals for Western Australia providing a consistent target up forward. Capped off a very impressive NAB AFL Under-18 Championships by winning the Larke Medal as Division 1 best player overall and winning All-Australian Under-18 honours. Made senior debut with West Perth late in year.

2. **Zac Bailey**  
Northern Territory/Southern Districts/Norwood  
23.9.1999  
Height: 181cm  Weight: 81kg

Hard-edged medium midfielder with a good burst of speed away from the midfield and able to set up many opportunities for his forwards. Averaged 17.2 possessions (6.8 contested), 3.2 clearances and 4.8 tackles in an outstanding series for the Allies winning All-Australian honours. Starred for Northern Territory earlier in the year in the Academy series. One of the big improvers at Under-18 level this season.

3. **Connor Ballenden**  
Brisbane Lions Academy/West Juniors  
29.3.1999  
Height: 198cm  Weight: 96kg

Graduate of NAB AFL Academy who is a tall forward/defender who can also pinch hit in the ruck. Strong overhead contested mark and excellent penetrating kick. Impressive for Brisbane Lions Academy as a key forward and switched to defence for the Allies and was particularly impressive against Western Australia in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships.
4. **Noah Balta**
Calder Cannons/Essendon Doutta Stars/St Bernard’s
23.10.1999  Height: 195cm  Weight: 95kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a super athletic tall defender with elite natural leap and line-breaking speed. Is still developing his game sense but can also play forward. Played three games for Vic Metro in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships winning team and has big upside. Used his versatility to great effect for the Calder Cannons this year and finished fourth in the best and fairest.

5. **Aiden Bonar**
Dandenong Stingrays/ Haileybury College
8.3.1999  Height: 189cm  Weight: 87kg

Powerfully built, versatile type who excels at stoppages and has a burst of speed away from congestion. Strong overhead and very competitive, he has overcome two ACL injuries to return to school and club football late in the year. All-Australian at Under-15 level in 2014 and has massive upside. Impressed in the All Stars game on Grand Final day to be among the best players. During the NAB AFL Draft Combine he highlighted his speed with a time of 2.92 seconds for the 20-metre sprint.

6. **Jarrod Brander**
Bendigo Pioneers/Wentworth/Geelong Grammar
11.2.1999  Height: 195cm  Weight: 92kg

Graduate of NAB AFL Academy who is a tall forward/defender and finished the Under-18 Championships with a dominant performance up forward in the Allies win over Vic Metro after excelling down back in game one against Vic Country. Strong overhead, agile and a good ball user. Averaged 15.8 disposals and 5.2 marks across the Under-18 Championships.
7. **Andrew Brayshaw**  
Sandringham Dragons/Haileybury College  
8.11.1999  
Height: 184cm  
Weight: 82kg  

Medium midfielder who has clean hands and uses the football well. Has good balance of inside and outside game and recovered from injury to play two games for Vic Metro. Averaged 21 disposals at 88 percent efficiency and four tackles. Had an outstanding NAB AFL Draft Combine, ranking first in the new Yo-Yo Test with a score of Level 22.4 then backed it up with a top three finish in the 2km with a time of six minutes and 14 seconds.

8. **Adam Cerra**  
Eastern Ranges/Wesley Grammar  
7.10.1999  
Height: 186cm  
Weight: 80kg  

Classy and prolific ball winner as a medium inside midfielder who uses the ball well by hand and foot. A playmaker, he also can be dangerous around goals. Impressed in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, averaging 18.2 disposals, 4.2 clearances and 5.5 tackles.

9. **Hunter Clark**  
Dandenong Stingrays/Mornington  
26.3.1999  
Height: 186cm  
Weight: 80kg  

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a poised and smooth-moving medium defender or midfielder who uses the ball well by hand and foot. An elite ball handler, he's strong overhead. Averaged 15.2 disposals, three marks and 4.2 tackles for Vic Country in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships. Won the Stingrays’ best and fairest award to top off a great year.
10. **Oscar Clavarino**  
Dandenong Stingrays/Berwick/Haileybury  
22.5.1999  
Height: 196cm  
Weight: 85kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a tall defender with excellent closing speed and strong hands overhead. Accountable and a strong performer in one-on-one contests. Uses the ball well, setting up his team from defence. Averaged 11.8 disposals and six intercept marks in an impressive NAB AFL Under-18 Championships performance winning All-Australian Under-18 honours.

11. **Nicholas Coffield**  
Northern Knights/Eltham/Whitefriars  
23.10.1999  
Height: 191cm  
Weight: 82kg

Versatile player who can play in defence, through the midfield or up forward. Showed excellent breakaway speed from down back throughout the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships. Is good in one-on-one contests and is strong overhead. Averaged 22.2 disposals at 74.2 percent efficiency and 4.2 marks in an impressive all-round Championships performance winning Under-18 All-Australian honours. His 2.91 seconds for the 20-metre sprint at the NAB AFL Draft Combine showcased his speed.

12. **Callum Coleman-Jones**  
Sturt/Scotch College  
13.6.1999  
Height: 201cm  
Weight: 99kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy and a developing ruckman/tall Forward who captained South Australia and is growing in confidence with his contested pack marking and ruck craft features of his play. Very good one-on-one player who averaged 17 possessions, 4.2 marks and 19.5 hitouts throughout the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, won All-Australian honours.
13. **Charlie Constable**  
Sandringham Dragons/Haileybury College  
18.5.1999  
Height: 191cm  
Weight: 86kg

Versatile tall midfielder who can go back or forward and wins contested football on the inside. Distributes the ball well, particularly by hand, and is strong in one-on-one contests. Had a very consistent NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, averaging 26.3 possessions at 72.2 percent efficiency and averaging 4.2 tackles winning Under-18 All-Australian honours.

14. **Brayden Crossley**  
Gold Coast Suns Academy/Labrador Tigers  
16.8.1999  
Height: 198cm  
Weight: 101kg

Graduate of NAB AFL Academy who is aggressive, competitive and persistent ruckman who plays with skill and passion. His physical presence and ruck craft impressed for Allies averaging 16.7 disposals, 27.7 hitouts and 3.7 tackles. Won Allies MVP award as well winning All Australian honours.

15. **Luke Davies-Uniacke**  
Dandenong Stingrays/Rye/Haileybury  
8.6.1999  
Height: 187cm  
Weight: 85kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a strong-bodied medium midfielder with a good burst of speed from stoppages, he uses his excellent vision and decision-making to set up play. Is also good overhead and strong one-on-one. Very impressive again in the All Stars game on Grand Final day with his 22 possessions.
16. Hugh Dixon  
Kingborough Tigers/Guilford Young College  
26.2.1999  
Height: 195cm  Weight: 90kg  

Tall forward who is mobile, agile and strong overhead. Impressive for Tasmania in the AFL Academy series winning it's MVP award and then a consistent target up forward for the Allies averaging 11 disposals, 3.5 marks and 2.2 goals in four matches.

17. Paddy Dow  
Bendigo Pioneers/Swan Hill/Geelong Grammar  
16.10.1999  
Height: 185cm  Weight: 78kg  

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a hard-running medium midfielder and has good balance between contested and uncontested ball. A prolific ball winner, he's good in one-on-one contests and was a consistent performer for Vic Country, with an average of 18.5 possessions (11.8 contested) and 5.2 clearances. Won All-Australian honours.

18. Darcy Fogarty  
Glenelg/Rostrevor College  
25.9.1999  
Height: 192cm  Weight: 95kg  

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a dynamic tall forward that can also go back or play through the midfield. Strong overhead and a fierce competitor. Hampered by knee injury during the Championships averaging 11.5 disposals and 3.5 marks.
19. Lachlan Fogarty
Western Jets/Spotswood/St Kevin’s College
1.4.1999 Height: 179cm Weight: 75kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a creative and courageous small midfielder who has good game sense in winning the ball and tackles aggressively. A good decision-maker and efficient user of the ball by hand and foot. Averaged 19 disposals at 68.4 percent efficiency and nine tackles in winning All Australian honours. Finished runner up in the Jets’ best and fairest award despite only playing seven matches.

20. Joel Garner
Eastern Ranges/Wandin/Scotch College
21.5.1999 Height: 184cm Weight: 83kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a medium defender who is composed with the ball in hand and distributes it well on his preferred left foot. Captained Vic Metro extremely well, winning the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships for the second year running. Averaged 15.8 disposals at 74.8 percent efficiency winning All Australian Under-18 honours.

21. Sam Hayes
Eastern Ranges/Ferntree Gully/Rowville Sports Academy
9.6.1999 Height: 203cm Weight: 93kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a mobile ruckman or tall forward who is strong overhead and effective with his ruck craft at stoppages. Now a back-to-back Under-18 All Australian after averaging 14.5 possessions, 3.5 marks and 16.8 hitouts across the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships.
22. Jack Higgins
Oakleigh Chargers/East Malvern
19.3.1999  Height: 178cm  Weight: 77kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a prolific ball-winning small forward or midfielder who reads the game exceptionally well and is strong overhead for his size and dangerous around goals. A consistent performer throughout the Under-18 Championships, he averaged 27.2 possessions at 74.3 percent efficiency (average of 13 contested) and averaged 1.5 goals per game. Won the Vic Metro MVP and All-Australian Under-18 honours. Also won the TAC Cup Morrish Medal as the competition’s best and fairest.

23. Jordan Houlahan
Sturt/Mt Barker High School
19.2.1999  Height: 186cm  Weight: 76kg

Medium forward who is extremely strong overhead and reliable set shot and snap for goal. Consistent performer for South Australia across the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships averaging 1.8 goals from his nine disposals and three marks. Progressed to Reserve level at Sturt having impressed during Round 16 where he kicked five goals against Glenelg.

24. Matthew Ling
Geelong Falcons/St Mary’s/St Joseph’s College
21.4.1999  Height: 183cm  Weight: 75kg

Medium defender or midfielder with line-breaking speed and good vision and ball distribution. Represented Vic Country in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, averaging 14 disposals at 80 percent efficiency and averaging 2.8 tackles across the four matches.
25. Gryan Miers
Geelong Falcons/Grovedale/Grovedale College
30.3.1999  Height: 178cm  Weight: 77kg

Livewire small forward with elite game sense and smarts around goals. A prolific ball winner, he also provides strong defensive pressure inside 50. Averaged 17.8 disposals and four tackles across the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships for Vic Country. Had an outstanding year for the Falcons kicking 50 goals including seven goals in the TAC Cup and being awarded Best on Ground.

26. Dylan Moore
Eastern Ranges/Rowville/Caulfield Grammar
4.8.1999  Height: 176cm  Weight: 66kg

Prolific ball-winning small forward or midfielder with football smarts in reading the play. Positions himself well as a crumbing forward. Uses the ball well, averaging 23 possessions at 71.1 percent efficiency winning All-Australian Under-18 honours. Top performer in the 2km test at the NAB AFL Draft Combine with a time of six minutes and nine seconds.

27. Nathan Murphy
Sandringham Dragons/Brighton Grammar
15.12.1999  Height: 188cm  Weight: 80kg

Medium forward with excellent natural leap for the ball, is strong overhead and is a clean mark out front. Agile and versatile type with good sense being a prolific goal scorer at Brighton Grammar before playing for the Dragons. Outstanding cricketer having represented Victoria at under-age level.
28. Patrick Naish
Northern Knights/Ivanhoe Grammar
15.1.1999 Height: 181cm Weight: 69kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a clever and creative midfielder with a good burst of speed and an innate ability around the goals. A good decision-maker and user of the football by hand and foot, and a neat step through traffic. Impressed throughout the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, with an average of 21.5 disposals at 65.1 percent efficiency and 4.2 inside 50s winning All-Australian Under-18 honours.

29. Aaron Naughton
Peel Thunder/Rockingham
30.11.1999 Height: 194cm Weight: 84kg

Left-footed tall defender who showed dash from defence, strength overhead and a penetrating and accurate kick in winning Western Australia's MVP. Averaged 14.8 disposals, 5.2 marks and 2.8 rebound 50's during the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships winning All-Australian honours. Showed future potential with an outstanding start to his senior career with Peel Thunder in the back half of the year.

30. Lochie O’Brien
Bendigo Pioneers/South Mildura/Geelong Grammar
18.9.1999 Height: 184cm Weight: 77kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a fleet-of-foot medium midfielder with a penetrating left foot. Strong overhead and dangerous around goals. Averaged 15.7 disposals at 66 percent efficiency in his three games for Vic Country across the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships. Impressed in the NAB AFL Draft Combine with his six minutes and 12 seconds for the 2km, ranked second overall.
31. Ben Paton
Murray Bushrangers/North Albury
19.10.1998  Height: 186cm  Weight: 77kg

Medium defender who provided great run from defence and uses the ball well by both hand and foot. Has an impressive natural leap, allowing him to play on a taller opponent when required. Averaged 18.5 disposals at 79.9 percent efficiency in a consistent NAB AFL Under-18 Championships performance for Vic Country winning All-Australian honours. Had a consistent year with the Bushrangers finishing runner-up in the best and fairest.

32. Harrison Petty
Norwood/Rostrevor College
12.11.1999  Height: 195cm  Weight: 82kg

Tall defender who is strong overhead and provided strong rebound for South Australia in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships. Averaged 12.2 disposals and 4.2 marks and won the South Australia MVP award as well as winning All-Australian honours.

33. Cameron Rayner
Western Jets/Essendon Doutta Stars/PEGS
21.10.1999  Height: 187cm  Weight: 87kg

Graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a powerful medium forward or midfielder who excels with his speed and agility at stoppages. Is dangerous around the goals and strong in the air. Had an outstanding NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, averaging 18.2 possessions (11.2 contested) and three goals per match winning All-Australian Under-18 honours.
34. Ed Richards
Oakleigh Chargers/Carey Grammar
3.7.1999  Height: 185cm  Weight: 78kg

Left-footed medium defender who was a dominant player in APS football this year with his intercept marking and play making across half back features of his game. Also played seven matches for the Oakleigh Chargers. Grandson of the former Collingwood legend Ron Richards.

35. Nicholas Shipley
GWS Giants Academy/St George
25.6.1999  Height: 188cm  Weight: 93kg

Powerful midfielder for the GWS Giants Academy who is a contested ball winner who excels at stoppages. Has good vision and clean hands with terrific work rate. Averaged 16.2 disposals at 75.4 percent efficiency for the Allies after impressing for the GWS Giants in the Academy series. Played some consistent football for the Giants in the NEAFL this year.

36. Charlie Spargo
Murray Bushrangers/Albury/Melbourne Grammar
25.11.1999  Height: 172cm  Weight: 70kg

Graduate of NAB AFL Academy who is a small forward/midfielder who is a real playmaker in the mould of Brent Harvey. Only played one game in Division One of the NAB AFL Under-1 Championships for the Allies gathering 19 disposals against Vic Country before a shoulder injury curtailed his championship. Courageous and skilful player with great football intelligence and passion for the game.
37. Jaidyn Stephenson
Eastern Ranges/Ferntree Gully
15.1.1999  Height: 189cm  Weight: 75kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a medium midfielder or forward with line-breaking speed who is strong overhead and a long accurate kick for goal. His 28 disposals and five goal performance against South Australia in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships was a highlight. Topped off the year with the best on ground in the All Stars game played on Grand Final day as well as showcasing his winning the Ranges’ best and fairest.

38. Sam Taylor
Swan Districts/Guildford Grammar
5.5.1999  Height: 196cm  Weight: 85kg

Graduate of NAB AFL Academy who is a composed tall defender who is strong overhead and very composed when under pressure. Uses the ball well when setting up play from defence and is team oriented. Averaged 11 disposals and 3.5 marks, he consistently controlled the oppositions tall forwards winning All-Australian honours.

39. Toby Wooller
Oakleigh Chargers/Old Scotch
16.3.1999  Height: 193cm  Weight: 90kg

Tall forward or midfielder who is strong overhead and a dangerous player around goals. Played two games for Vic Metro in the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships and was very impressive in the TAC Cup this year, winning the Charges’ best and fairest award. Grandson of former Geelong Cats Premiership captain Fred Wooller. Showcased his endurance at the NAB AFL Draft Combine with his six minutes and 32 seconds for the 2km test, outstanding for a player of his size.
40. James Worpel
Geelong Falcons/Bell Park
24.1.1999   Height: 185cm  Weight: 86kg

A graduate of the NAB AFL Academy who is a strong and powerful medium midfielder who wins contested balls and accelerates from stoppages. A strong, aggressive tackler, he led Vic Country as co-captain. Averaged 19.8 possessions (9.8 contested), 4.2 clearances and eight tackles and won the Vic Country MVP award. Topped off an impressive year as a premiership player with the Geelong Falcons.