

GEELONG

Gary Ablett jnr	FWD	95.7	#4	35yo	182cm	87kg	342 games
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THE LITTORAL MASTER

half forward flanker centre rotations launcher hurt factor

For the first time in over a decade, Gary Ablett jnr's fantasy scores fell below 90. Passing the age of 35 as few do in senior football, many thought that the Little Master's statistical dip suggested he'd be hanging up the boots for good. However, with five scores of 110+ helped out by 33 goals and elite rankings for inside 50s and score involvements, his ceiling remains high. Scoring consistency, on the other hand, is waning.

The eight-time All-Australian won't be playing every game this year and he'll be spending the bulk of his time in the forward line. FWD eligibility makes him more valuable than he otherwise would as he teeters on the cliff, as there are precious few options at his average even if he has a lot of downside potential. This makes him a middle-round selection, who may slide if your league reacts poorly to age-based concerns.

Projection: 84.7 (-4) from 16 (-5). Value: +203.6. Draft rank: 96. FWD rank: 22.

Tom Atkins	FWD	60.3 (20)	#30	24yo	180cm	86kg	20 games
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SCRAPS DIET FOR ATKINS

defensive forward centre rotations

Years of consistent VFL displays finally paved the way for Tom Atkins to strut his stuff in the big leagues, sliding perfectly into the Cats' mid-forward rotations. The strong-bodied tackling machine showed glimpses of fantasy potential with a pair of 11-tackle, 90+ games, although he didn't do much else to garner real interest.

Despite playing most matches, Atkins remains a fringe player with question marks over his job security. The team-first role that he plays doesn't correlate to fantasy points either, so it's best to look elsewhere.

Projection: 59.6 (+6) from 11 (-9). Value: -136.6. Draft rank: 524. FWD rank: 163.

Jed Bews	BAC	44.7	#24	26yo	186cm	88kg	79 games
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LITTLE PRAISE FOR A BEWS

lockdown defender

Despite injury delaying his 2019 start, Geelong's coaches were impressed with Jed Bews' ability to play the team-first role in the back six, gifting him a two year contract extension until the end of 2021. Bews sees little involvement in rebounding and intercept work.

With **Jake Kolodjashnij**'s spot now all but cemented and **Jack Henry** proving useful, it might be tough for Bews to maintain a regular berth. Regardless, his scoring is poor. No thank you, Jed.

Projection: 48.7 (+5) from 8 (-1). Value: -186.2. Draft rank: 585. BAC rank: 192.

Mark Blicavs	BAC	82.7	#46	29yo	198cm	100kg	153 games
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MORE BALLROOM THAN BLITZ

key defender

Despite his lowest possession count since 2014, a couple of extra marks per game meant that Mark Blicavs increased his fantasy average by five points. That said, Geelong's Mr Fix-it found himself locked into defensive posts without the usual wing and ruck rover responsibilities we'd seen in past campaigns.

Will 2020 see Blicavs be given more ruck duties with **Zac Smith** departing? How will **Lachie Henderson** affect his role? There are too many question marks at this stage to warrant anything more than a late hail mary selection. Keep him on the watchlist to determine his role.

Projection: 68.0 from 22. Value: -89.0. Draft rank: 423. BAC rank: 146.

Oscar Brownless	FWD		#20	20yo	186cm	75kg	'18 ND #74
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BROWNLESS GAMELESS

half forward flanker rookie

Touted as a great runner with versatility and consistency to boot, the 2018 father-son pick spent his debut season perfecting his craft in the VFL, finishing 10th in the VFL best & fairest after playing 18 matches.

Despite being delisted by the Cats at season's end, Brownless was redrafted as a rookie. Heaven and earth would need to move for Brownless to get a game in the near future, so don't bother.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Jordan Clark	CTR	60.9 (18)	#6	19yo	185cm	78kg	18 games
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RED IN TOOTH AND CLARK

half back flanker coming off LTI elbow problem

From the outset of 2019 Jordan Clark slotted straight into the Cats lineup, proving himself as one of the competition's most impressive first-year players. The Claremont recruit notched up 18 games, debuting across half back then eventually sliding up to the wing before surgery on his left elbow sidelined him after round 20.

The tail end of last season showed indications of what we can expect of Clark in his second year, averaging 80 in a five-game purple patch. He's poised to excel on the wing opposite **Mitch Duncan**, so let natural progression do its thing and take Clark despite his lack of dual-position status in the final rounds as bench cover.

Projection: 85.8 (+23) from 18. Value: +31.6. Draft rank: 182. CTR rank: 72.

Bradley Close	CTR/FWD		#45	21yo	178cm	70kg	'19 Rk #14
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CLOSE HAS LONG JOURNEY

half forward flanker rookie

Averaging 16 touches and 70 fantasy points in the SANFL while rotating wing and forward, Bradley Close is touted as a natural goalsneak with really quick hands.

Simply put, the Glenelg recruit won't be featured in any senior capacity this year, so focus your attention elsewhere.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Nakia Cockatoo	CTR/FWD	55.8	#5	23yo	186cm	90kg	34 games
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COCKY NEEDS A CRACKER

half forward flanker hamstring problem

Nakia Cockatoo is one of Geelong's most exciting young prospects. Unfortunately, he's also one of the most injury-prone. Hand and knee problems sidelined Cockatoo for the bulk of 2018 before 2019 became a write-off due to a round 3 PCL injury and hamstring tightness.

The explosive midfielder will be attempting to put together a full preseason en route to a starting 22 role. Even if that is the case and he can leave his injury woes behind, Cockatoo is yet to show us that he's any more than a fringe X-factor midfielder. Pass.

Projection: 63.6 from 5 (+5). Value: -102.1. Draft rank: 461. CTR rank: 137.

Charlie Constable	CTR	80.0 (7)	#18	20yo	191cm	86kg	7 games
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CONSTABLE SENT TO BARWON

inside midfielder half forward flanker

Everything was travelling perfectly for Charlie Constable in the early stages of his senior debut season, racking up over 21 touches and delivering commendable fantasy scores including a high of 31 disposals and a goal. After a quiet performance in round 9, the axe swung and he failed to crack into the starting lineup again thereafter.

Scoring potential for Constable isn't in doubt, rather his job security is the problem. Even though **Tim Kelly** goes out, **Jack Steven** comes in with a far more impressive resume. Constable will be given chances throughout the season, subject to his teammates' injuries and form, but that isn't enough to warrant a draft pick.

Projection: 84.3 (+1) from 9 (+2). Value: +2.4. Draft rank: 209. CTR rank: 80.

Luke Dahlhaus	FWD	83.7	#40	27yo	179cm	77kg	174 games
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DUST IN THE DOLL HOUSE

crumbing forward centre rotations

Geelong wanted more tackling pressure and they got it though Luke Dahlhaus, with the ex-Dog averaging five tackles to lead the club in that stat. Dahlhaus came out like a house on fire with a fantasy ton average to round 3, then struck some inconsistency to end with his lowest average since 2013, although not dissimilar to his final year at Whitten Oval.

Chris Scott adores Dahlhaus' forward pressure, so as long as that remains evident he won't lose his spot in the 22. We shouldn't expect too many surprises from him come 2020 as his role in the team is fairly stable, and that's exactly why he should be picked in the later of the middle rounds.

Projection: 77.5 (+2) from 20 (-1). Value: +110.4. Draft rank: 136. FWD rank: 29.

Patrick Dangerfield	CTR	118.5	#35	30yo	189cm	92kg	244 games
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DANGER: ELECTRICITY inside midfielder rests forward magnet extractor beast launcher hurt factor

It was a herculean year for Patrick Dangerfield, leading the Cats' engine room en route to a fifth-straight 105+ fantasy year and a third Carji Greeves Medal. The powerful midfielder dominated clearances and contested possessions as expected, while adding 27 goals to his name to finish fourth in the club goalkicking. Despite a week on the sidelines in round 10 with an ankle concern, Dangerfield remained a symbol of consistency and durability.

Now signed until the close of 2024, Dangerfield will propel his team toward finals once more. The ex-Crow has proven himself as a matchwinner and we can expect much of the same from this superstar in 2020. Personnel changes and the fact that he will hit the age of 30 early in the season suggest he may rest forward a bit more in the manner of **Dustin Martin**, but we are probably a year or two away from that future. Draft him early or regret it.

Projection: 107.6 (-2) from 21. Value: +495.1. Draft rank: 16. CTR rank: 9.

Sam De Koning	BAC		#16	19yo	200cm	85kg	'19 ND #19
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ROAD OPENS FOR SDK key defender

As the younger brother of Carlton's Tom, Sam De Koning is an athletic defender capable of being flung forward when needed. His excellent intercept marking and consistent Vic Country showings were largely the reason why the Cats nabbed him at pick 19, notching up 12 disposals and five marks at the Championships.

Standing over two metres tall, De Koning will need time to add some muscle to his slender frame before he can compete with the larger key forwards. His game isn't fantasy friendly either, so let's overlook him for now.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Mitch Duncan	CTR	103.2	#22	28yo	188cm	88kg	199 games
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DUNCAN IS SURELY HOOPING outside midfielder aerialist

With big-name stars hogging the spotlight, Mitch Duncan was able to go impressively about his business on the wing, flying under the radar yet again in a phenomenal statistical year and playing every game until a knee injury struck him down in September. Despite the grade three medial tear not requiring surgery, he did go under the knife to fix his AC joint and then again on his hip, delaying his running routine until the new year.

With plenty of time left, there should be no qualms over Duncan's health come round one. His role in the team will most likely stay the same post the trade of **Tim Kelly**, and possibly become even more lucrative if he inherits the wing sweeper role that **Joel Selwood** played last year. If the preseason runs smoothly, then expect much of the same from Duncan in 2020 and choose him with a pick in the earlier rounds as a set-and-forget midfielder.

Projection: 100.4 (-5) from 20 (-2). Value: +327.1. Draft rank: 61. CTR rank: 34.

Francis Evans	FWD		#31	18yo	182cm	78kg	'19 ND #41
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EVANS GOES PRO half forward flanker

As the bolter of the mid-tier draft selections, Francis Evans surprised many when snagged at pick 41. Most clubs only saw Evans' two Calder Cannons games before he was sidelined by a heel injury that required surgery. The Cats saw much more potential in his VAFA outings, where he booted 21 goals in five games including eight in one match.

As a medium-sized forward, Evans has excellent overhead marking and respectable disposal on both sides of his body. Considering that he was still on limited duties at the draft combine due to injury, Evans will be a step behind the pace as the preseason ticks into full gear. He could be one to watch for the future but not for the present. Next.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Lachlan Fogarty	CTR	58.6 (17)	#13	21yo	180cm	76kg	17 games
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FOGARTY STILL IN MIST

balanced midfielder

Following an impressive 15-game debut season Lachie Fogarty failed to match expectations, and was largely overlooked for other youngsters. We've seen glimpses of his potential as a ball winner across senior and reserve level during his two years at Kardinia Park, highlighted by a 15-tackle outing in the twos.

Fogarty will be thereabouts in selection conversations throughout the year but is yet to cement a role and **Jack Steven** only makes the task more difficult. Without playing time guarantees, it'd be silly to draft the youngster. Let Fogarty slide into the free agent pool and keep an eye on him for future seasons.

Projection: 63.5 (+7) from 7 (+5). Value: -143.4. Draft rank: 537. CTR rank: 156.

Darcy Fort	FWD	69.7 (3)	#28	26yo	204cm	99kg	3 games
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FORT INTO THE BREACH

second ruck/forward

Amidst the club's ruck uncertainty, Darcy Fort was given a chance late in the season and grasped it with both hands, catching our attention with a three-goal debut as a tandem ruck alongside **Ryan Abbott**. Splitting his time on ball and forward, Fort didn't look entirely out of place in the senior squad.

With Abbott going to St Kilda as a delisted free agent and **Zac Smith** returning to the Suns, Fort moves up the pecking order. His chance at a string of games is directly correlated with **Rhys Stanley's** form and since he isn't atop Geelong's list, he shouldn't be near the top of ours. Pass.

Projection: 54.7 from 8 (+5). Value: -138.7. Draft rank: 530. FWD rank: 164.

Cameron Guthrie	CTR	76.1	#29	27yo	187cm	86kg	157 games
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CUTHRIE SURVIVES THE CUT

half back flanker

As a mostly defensive role-player in a star-studded midfield, Cam Guthrie ticked all the right boxes in 2019. While not his most impressive statistical year to date, he was able to improve from his injury-afflicted 2018 campaign, highlighted by a dominant 33-touch semi final performance against West Coast.

Every team of Galacticos needs a defensive mid to enable the stars to shine, and with Scott Selwood delisted Guthrie's midfield minutes aren't going anywhere. If he can keep up the strong tackling pressure then he presents as a usable late-round pick for midfield bench cover.

Projection: 76.8 (+1) from 20 (+2). Value: -144.5. Draft rank: 538. CTR rank: 157.

Zach Guthrie	BAC	41.1 (15)	#39	21yo	187cm	76kg	17 games
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ZERO OUT ZUTHRIE

utility

After 17 AFL games across three years including a standalone late inclusion in round 7, Zach Guthrie has finally been promoted to the senior list. Usually touted as a defender, Guthrie showed versatility across his 14 VFL matches, playing in attack, on the wing and at half-forward.

The 21-year-old will need luck on his side if he aims to secure a senior role, with teammates' injuries the only imaginable path to repeated games. If there's going to be one Guthrie in your squad, it's not this one. Pass.

Projection: 48.8 (+6) from 4 (+3). Value: -93.0. Draft rank: 435. BAC rank: 151.

Tom Hawkins	FWD	85.6	#26	31yo	198cm	103kg	253 games
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TOMAHAWK SUNK DEEP

key forward finisher hurt factor

With 52 home & away goals, Tom Hawkins dominated as Geelong's key forward target once again. However, **Esava Ratugolea's** return and **Gary Rohan's** induction meant Hawkins sat deeper and shared the workload, resulting in his lowest goal, mark, and disposal tallies over the last four years.

Hawkins will play full forward and will continue to be the Cats' number one goalkicker. He'll play every game when fit and if you can look past occasional ice-cold games, he's a valuable back end addition to forward lines. Worthy of a later pick if you can handle the usual key forward blips.

Projection: 75.1 (+4) from 21 (-1). Value: +65.4. Draft rank: 157. FWD rank: 37.

Lachie Henderson	BAC	79.7	#25	30yo	196cm	98kg	169 games
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HENDERSON IS BIGFOOT

key defender rookie

Persistent knee injuries impacted Lachie Henderson's last two seasons at centre half back, so he'll be keen to forget them after being re-selected in the rookie draft.

Considering that Henderson has only averaged over 70 once in his 12-season career, even if he can lock down a defensive post, he remains largely irrelevant in terms of fantasy value.

Projection: 63.0 (-6) from 3 (-2). Value: -27.1. Draft rank: 263. BAC rank: 83.

Jack Henry	BAC	53.5	#38	21yo	191cm	92kg	42 games
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DON'T HOLD FOR HENRY

key defender key forward swingman

Despite the occasional swing into attack, Jack Henry solidified his position in the back six, rotating on tall and medium-sized forwards. He wasn't fantasy-relevant in his debut season and was even less so in his second, seeing a drop in all critical stats.

Henry will claim his defensive post again this year but fantasy-wise, his only relevance is the name of the man he's marking. We can see a home for Henry at the bottom of the free agent pool.

Projection: 49.0 (+4) from 20. Value: -460.0. Draft rank: 685. BAC rank: 235.

Ben Jarvis	BAC		#10	19yo	189cm	65kg	'18 ND #48
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JARVIS MISSES THE POINT

key forward

The first year in the system for Ben Jarvis saw him tally 15 VFL games without lighting the world on fire. When drafted, the Port Lincoln product showed strength above his head as an aggressive key forward. His VFL coaches saw it differently, moving the youngster to a back pocket.

Without a senior appearance, Jarvis looms as a depth player in 2020, forced down the pecking order with the injection of **Josh Jenkins**. Don't give Jarvis a second thought.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Josh Jenkins	FWD	78.5	#11	31yo	200cm	108kg	147 games
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JERKER JUMPS TO GEELONG

key forward second ruck/forward finisher

Alongside **Jack Steven**, Josh Jenkins was the big name to make his way to Kardinia Park in the trade period and he'll be looking to make the most of the fresh start after a controversial period at Adelaide. The powerful forward has proven his worth to fantasy coaches with a four-year average nudging on 80, although uncertainty remains on how he'll squeeze into Geelong's forward lineup. His signature play at the Crows was receiving a Joe the Goose handball in the goalsquare.

Assuming Chris Scott finds room for Jenkins and **Esava Ratugolea**, which is not a guarantee by any means, his natural role seems to be playing deeper as **Tom Hawkins** pushes up the ground. Playing all three of them might mean the team loses too much on the chase, at a club which has struggled recently for frontal pressure. Watch this space in the preseason to determine where in the middle-to-late rounds Jenkins' selection deems worthy.

Projection: 75.6 (-3) from 15 (+4). Value: +54.3. Draft rank: 163. FWD rank: 39.

Jacob Kennerley	BAC		#21	19yo	186cm	78kg	'18 ND #50
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KENNERLEY AT CATTERY

outside midfielder

The smooth-moving Jacob Kennerley took natural steps in his inaugural season, taking the field 18 times with Geelong's VFL squad and doing enough to finish sixth in the club's best and fairest count.

As an elite runner, it was no surprise when Kennerley lead the club's shuttle run to start the 2020 preseason, however he still has plenty of work to do if he wants a berth in the seniors. For now, he can run as fast as he likes into the free agent pool.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Jake Kolodjashnij	BAC	53.7	#8	24yo	193cm	94kg	89 games
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PICK JAKE? J/K
half back flanker groin problem

Geelong's quiet achiever has locked down his accountable medium defender role, playing the majority of the last three seasons. Jake Kolodjashnij's team-first focus is to subdue his opponent, evidenced by his extremely low rebound 50 average of 2.3.

The back pocket is Kolodjashnij's spot to lose this year, so he'll be a mainstay barring injury. Despite that, his scores have never gleaned fantasy interest and that won't be changing anytime soon. Move on.

Projection: 47.4 from 12 (-8). Value: -295.1. Draft rank: 649. BAC rank: 219.

Nathan Kreuger	FWD		#15	20yo	196cm	88kg	'18 pre-list
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STILL A DREAM FOR KREUGERkey forward

Yet to debut for the senior squad, Nathan Kreuger's premiere season oozed potential in the VFL, highlighted by a seven-mark, six-goal haul against Coburg and a five-week, 13-goal purple patch before a knee injury halted his momentum.

Cats VFL coach Shane O'Bree praised Kreuger's ability to dominate at both ends of the ground, a skill set he'll be poised to replicate under Chris Scott in the seniors soon enough. Whether it's this year or the next remains uncertain, so let him slide into the free agent pool.

Projection: 45.0 from 2 (+2). Value: -54.0. Draft rank: 355. FWD rank: 104.

Sam Menegola	CTR	94.5	#27	28yo	189cm	89kg	61 games
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SAM SUFFERS MENE-PAUSEhalf forward flanker

Suffered in round 7 against the Bombers, what was expected to be a two-week minor knee injury required surgery and sidelined Sam Menegola for 10. That made 2019 his most disappointing outing to date, averaging career lows in all areas while spending more time across the half forward line.

With a near-identical role to **Brandan Parfitt**, Menegola isn't the same walk-up selection he once was. He'll still provide more-than-serviceable scores when on the pitch but needs to be approached with caution. A preseason watchlist candidate who would earn a middle-round pick if favoured by the coaching staff.

Projection: 87.2 (-7) from 13 (+4). Value: +41.7. Draft rank: 177. CTR rank: 69.

Gryan Miers	FWD	67.3	#32	21yo	178cm	78kg	22 games
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MIERS HAS BIG SHOP FRONTcrumbing forward

Dreadlocked Geelong Falcons recruit Gryan Miers delivered an incredibly impressive debut season. With eight scores of 80+ including a four-round average of 90 early on, plenty swooped on him from the free agent pool for his impressive goal sense despite an obscure kicking style. Inconsistency came in the season's latter half, as expected for first year players.

With another preseason under his belt Miers should slide effortlessly into the 22, barring injury. There are plenty of flankers and small forwards waiting to pinch his spot if he should succumb to second-year syndrome. If the crafty forward can eliminate a few of his quieter games and link up the ground more often, he could prove a smoky with a late round pick.

Projection: 74.7 (+8) from 17 (-5). Value: +45.6. Draft rank: 173. FWD rank: 43.

Quinton Narkle	CTR	67.7 (9)	#19	22yo	181cm	80kg	9 games
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NARKLE JUST TWINKLEScrumbing forward

Ongoing hamstring troubles stunted Quinton Narkle's chances to suit up in the ones early in the year but as soon as the opportunity arose he seized it with both hands, posting two formidable 90+ scores across three weeks. While his output dwindled in the finals, he'd already made a name for himself thanks to a Brownlow vote-polling performance in round 21.

Narkle is one for the watchlist throughout the preseason. With more kilometres in the legs, another summer in the gym and his injury troubles hopefully behind him, he'll be knocking on the door with intent. He is every chance to do something flashy in the Marsh series and creep up draft boards to be late-round smoky.

Projection: 69.7 (+8) from 11 (+8). Value: -157.5. Draft rank: 558. CTR rank: 163.

Mark O'Connor	BAC	62.6	#42	23yo	191cm	87kg	27 games
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MOC IS FOR REAL, TO BE SURE

outside midfielder **non-AFL background**

It was a clear yet surprising case of third-year breakout for Mark O'Connor who came from nowhere to establish himself across the Cats' half-back line. With 14 touches and five grabs per game while keeping attackers in check, the County Kerry recruit did enough to keep **Jed Bews** waiting in the wings.

O'Connor will be hopeful of adding more of an offensive side to his gameplay in 2020, in which case he'll be poised to join **Tom Stewart** as an important rebounder. Improvement looms but not enough to justify a starting position just yet. Let him slide but keep an eye out for surprises in his early-season form.

Projection: 62.9 (+5) from 15 (-5). Value: -136.7. Draft rank: 525. BAC rank: 173.

Stefan Okunbor	BAC		#43	21yo	190cm	87kg	'18 B rookie
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STEFAN A BIT STIFF

key defender **current LTI** **ankle problem** **non-AFL background** **rookie**

After coming in off a full Gaelic season, groin soreness troubled Stefan Okunbor early in his debut footy year. Once he was able to put that niggle behind him, the athletic defender took strides with each of his eight VFL showings.

He ruptured an Achilles in January training. When searching for defensive bench cover, look elsewhere. The County Kerry recruit will continue to develop his craft in the reserves once he recovers.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Brandan Parfitt	FWD/CTR	80.0	#3	22yo	180cm	79kg	51 games
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PARFITT DRIVES FOR SHOW

half forward flanker **centre rotations** **beast**

The third year breakout we expected for Brandan Parfitt didn't eventuate, with a stacked Geelong midfield leaving very few minutes for youngsters to claim as their own. Brandan still remained a key cog across half forward, providing valuable pressure with five tackles per game.

With **Tim Kelly** headed out west, midfield minutes are up for grabs at the Cats. **Jack Steven** will take some but not all, meaning that the likes of Parfitt and **Quinton Narkle** are every chance to increase their output. Snap him up in the middle rounds.

Projection: 83.9 (+10) from 20 (+3). Value: +237.3. Draft rank: 82. FWD rank: 17.

James Parsons	CTR	50.6	#34	23yo	190cm	82kg	35 games
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PASS ON PARSONS

outside midfielder

Following an 18-game debut season, James Parsons' progression has gone backwards as he's fallen down the selection pecking order. While his four appearances as a mid-forward weren't awful by any means, the sample size we're given is far too little to warrant excitement.

At best, Parsons is a midfield depth player who could find himself yo-yoing in and out of the squad as determined by his teammates' fitness. Lacking both job security and high fantasy ceilings, it's better to forget about Parsons altogether.

Projection: 57.9 (+8) from 4. Value: -104.4. Draft rank: 468. CTR rank: 140.

Esava Ratugolea	RUC/FWD	57.6	#17	21yo	197cm	102kg	25 games
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WELL BATTED, SAV

key forward **buckets** **coming off LTI** **ankle problem**

Cats fans were delighted to see Esava Ratugolea fully fit following that nasty 2018 leg break. Despite a month-long hamstring issue in round 12 which forced the athletic key forward to the sidelines, his campaign showed good signs, including a few pinch-hits in the ruck. While Chris Scott saw positive progression, fantasy coaches did not with his output remaining identical to his injury-afflicted debut season.

Ratugolea presents high up the ground which clears out space for **Tom Hawkins** closer to goal. His role is to bust the packs open to provide crumbs, with any contested grabs he takes himself as an added bonus, in a role similar to **Charlie Dixon**. Unfortunately, this means that Sav doesn't hit the scoreboard as much as we'd like for a key forward. Without evidence of fantasy potential, it would be unwise to waste a pick at this stage.

Projection: 58.1 (+9) from 16 (-1). Value: -382.5. Draft rank: 675. RUC rank: 48.

Gary Rohan	FWD	58.3	#23	28yo	189cm	92kg	122 games
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DON'T RIDE WITH ROHAN

half forward flanker

dead-eye

It wouldn't be a Gary Rohan campaign without a handful of injuries, and such was the case in 2019. The ex-Swan played more matches in his first year at the Cats than in any year in Sydney, although without any noteworthy statistical improvements. An ankle knock in round 20 and a hamstring strain in the first final soured his otherwise-acceptable year.

When Rohan is on song he can certainly be a pleasure to watch, but unfortunately for we draft league coaches that doesn't equate to fantasy relevance. His value to the team is in bobbing up at just the right moment to contribute to a win, then to fade into the background. Ignore the X-factor and leave him out of your planning.

Projection: 50.5 (+3) from 15 (-3). Value: -322.0. Draft rank: 663. FWD rank: 217.

Blake Schlenso	FWD		#36	19yo	198cm	99kg	'18 B rookie
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SCHLENSOG STILL SLOGGING

key forward

rookie

Category B rookie and key position prospect Blake Schlenso signed a one-year extension over the off season after finding his feet in the VFL. With 13 matches for eight goals, including two bags of three, he spent most of his time forward although he wasn't a stranger to helping out the defensive lines.

As is usually the case for tall forwards, his development won't be quick. Once he can improve his engine and repeat efforts, Schlenso will still need heaven and earth to move in order for an upgrade to the senior list. Don't think twice.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Joel Selwood	CTR	87.5	#14	31yo	183cm	84kg	290 games
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SELL STOCK IN SELWOOD

inside midfielder

For the first time in over a decade, Joel Selwood was released of the main midfield responsibilities at the Cats. While thrown into the guts when required, the bulk of his campaign was spent on the wing, drifting back to mop up in defence as a seventh man. This resulted in Joel's lowest ever fantasy output with a significant drop in disposals and centre bounce involvements.

This role of starting on a wing and then sweeping behind the ball was created in the wake of the 6-6-6 rule introduced last season, and it has spread across the league. Given Selwood's average is now below the midfielder baseline, it's hard to draft him unless you think he's going to return to the guts to replace **Tim Kelly**. He is a watchlist candidate for that possibility alone.

Projection: 89.1 (+10) from 19 (-1). Value: +97.6. Draft rank: 142. CTR rank: 63.

Sam Simpson	CTR	40.2 (6)	#37	21yo	180cm	74kg	6 games
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SIMPSON IS A HOMER PICK

outside midfielder

rookie

Renowned for his ability to evade tacklers and clear congestion, Sam Simpson averaged 20 disposals and five tackles across 19 VFL appearances on his way to claiming the Cats' 2019 VFL best & fairest award. Despite showings in the senior squad in 2017 and 2018, this remained Simpson's strongest campaign by a country mile.

The 21-year-old Geelong Falcons product was rewarded for his efforts and upgraded to the senior list, so his case for senior opportunities come 2020 couldn't be stronger. Becoming a mainstay is still far from the horizon so he shouldn't be drafted.

Projection: 61.0 from 5 (+5). Value: -115.0. Draft rank: 489. CTR rank: 146.

Rhys Stanley	RUC	87.9	#1	29yo	200cm	102kg	130 games
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SEARCHING FOR STANLEY SECURITY

first ruck second ruck/forward

While Rhys Stanley takes the number one ruck reins when fit and firing, the ex-Saint suffered a mid-season adductor injury and battled with ongoing team imbalances, causing him to miss multiple strings of matches. Due to injury, form and an ever-changing team structure, Stanley has never played more than 20 games in a season. A lack of consistency meant that it wasn't a phenomenal year even though he averaged career highs of 14 disposals and 29 hit outs.

Zac Smith has moved on, which suggests that Stanley is a walk up for the first ruck spot. The injection of Josh Jenkins as full forward gives another option for Chris Scott to experiment with the dreaded ruck tandem, and given his history Stanley will always be a handful of sub-par games away from being dropped. With too many question marks around Geelong's ruck division Stanley should be drafted in the later rounds, ideally as bench cover.

Projection: 82.0 (+1) from 17 (+1). Value: -0.8. Draft rank: 212. RUC rank: 14.

Cooper Stephens	CTR		#12	19yo	188cm	83kg	'19 ND #16
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COOPER IS MINI JELWOOD

inside midfielder

After being touted as a likely Richmond draftee and then breaking his leg as a junior, Cooper Stephens found himself at Kardinia Park. For the Cats, he had already shown enough in the 2018 Championships, averaging 26 disposals and four clearances and displaying excellent decision-making and composure.

The Geelong Falcons product is admired for his strength in the contest and contested ball winning ability, not too unlike his skipper. As a first-year player, we need to see more of Stephens before taking any risk, so he's best avoided.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Jack Steven	FWD/CTR	86.1	#9	30yo	180cm	83kg	183 games
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STUV ON THE MOVE

inside midfielder half forward flanker illness

Tim Kelly goes out and four-time St Kilda best and fairest winner Jack Steven comes in. On the surface it's a direct swap, however Steven's fitness levels need improvement after missing most of 2019 for personal reasons. At his best Stuv is a fantasy jet, with five 90+ and two 100+ seasons under his belt, though most of those big numbers came when he was playing central midfield and not the forward/mid role he has shifted to recently. He injured a calf in late January training.

The club has been open about starting Steven forward and then shifting him to midfield as he gains fitness, meaning that if he gets over the soft tissue problems he will push Sam Menegola out of a roaming half-forward role. Or - not to be too cynical about it, but it is a factor - there's always the possibility of another randomly-timed mental health break. With one injury setback already, Steven is a big risk for what is likely to be a middle-round selection, as his upside is stellar but his downside is real.

Projection: 89.6 (+1) from 13 (+6). Value: +228.4. Draft rank: 85. FWD rank: 19.

Tom Stewart	BAC	98.2	#44	27yo	190cm	88kg	65 games
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STEWART HAS VERTIGO

key defender seagull aerialist rebounder run-and-carry

Since the mature-aged Tom Stewart joined the Cats in 2017, his statistical progression has been nothing but positive. Last season he achieved top ten finishes for kicks, metres gained and marks, with a kick-to-handball ratio that would excite any fantasy coach. He also topped the league rankings for rebound 50s by some distance, with the next-best Cat outside the top 40.

Looking toward 2020, the versatile defender is injury-free and is showing no signs of slowing down after his back-to-back All-Australian nods. The mark tally is the true sign of a solid fantasy defender, putting a very high floor on his scoring. As one of the more consistent defenders on the market, Stewart warrants an early-round selection with great confidence.

Projection: 92.2 (-3) from 21 (-1). Value: +423.2. Draft rank: 29. BAC rank: 6.

Cameron Taheny	FWD	#41	18yo	186cm	79kg	'19 ND #50
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TAHENY IS SECRET SAUCE

defensive forward

Geelong seized Cameron Taheny with their third-round pick in the recent draft, admiring the Norwood forward's left foot and acceleration, after he ran a sub-three second 20m sprint at the draft combine. Despite an injury-interrupted Championships, the coaching staff saw enough in the SANFL where Taheny averaged 2.5 goals in seven matches at a fantasy rate of 60.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

No matter which way we look at it, it's hard to see Taheny cracking the senior side early in his first year. Let him fizzle into the forgotten for now, especially since he has a lot of competition for spots ahead of him as the Cats search for a frontal pressure specialist, though a late-season free agent pool pick up is not out of the question.

Jake Tarca	FWD	#33	20yo	177cm	73kg	'18 ND #68
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TARCA HITS TARGETS

defensive forward

Admired for his tackling, marking and explosivity for his height, Jake Tarca spent his first year in the VFL, kicking eight goals from nine games before trailing off to finish with 12 from 17.

Not projected to play. Value: nil.

Tarca will benefit from another full preseason as all second-year players do, but still has plenty to prove if he wants to push for senior selection. Don't bother.

Harry Taylor	BAC	71.0	#7	33yo	195cm	94kg	256 games
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DRILL BIT WORN WITH AGE

key defender

swingman

Bar an injury-afflicted 2018, Harry Taylor has played at least 18 games every season in his career. While his consistency and durability are formidable, scoring capacity is not. Taylor now plays a much more accountable role, letting the likes of **Tom Stewart** take the intercepting and rebounding duties.

Projection: 58.2 from 16 (-5). Value: -220.4. Draft rank: 611. BAC rank: 199.

We know what to expect from the Cats' ever-reliable backman, which some coaches may appreciate with happier memories of seasons past. Most will let him slide into the free agent pool and not give him a second thought. That's what you should do.

Zach Tuohy	BAC	76.2	#2	30yo	187cm	93kg	183 games
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TUOHY TASTES WEAK

half back flanker

It was a mediocre year for Zach Tuohy who, after 138 consecutive games, was forced to start his campaign on the sidelines after minor knee surgery. His stats dipped to his lowest fantasy output since 2014 with a three-disposal decrease. While usually a mainstay in the Cats' back six, the dashing Irishman was also tried as an attacking weapon at times.

Projection: 73.9 (+2) from 20 (+5). Value: +38.5. Draft rank: 178. BAC rank: 55.

Having ticked over 30 in the off season, Tuohy may not reach his mark of 85 reached in years gone by. That said, a late-round pick could prove a steal if he can cement his favourable position across half back without those often pointless excursions up the ground. Keep him on the watchlist.