

# Herald Sun Sport

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## PITT STOP

Jana Pittman shies away from A-series 400m showdown with Tamsyn Lewis **P94**



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# RUBBED IN

## Ban no bar on medal

Mark Stevens

A **PLAYER** rubbed out at the tribunal this year could still be eligible to win the Brownlow medal.

The AFL executive is poised to meet within days to seriously ponder a shift away from the 80-year tradition of any suspension automatically ending a player's Brownlow hopes.

On the back of a revamped tribunal format, the league is leaning towards using its new points system — and not suspension — to decide eligibility for the game's most coveted individual prize.

A player could commit a low-level striking offence worth 125 points and be suspended because of a poor record, but still be eligible for the medal.

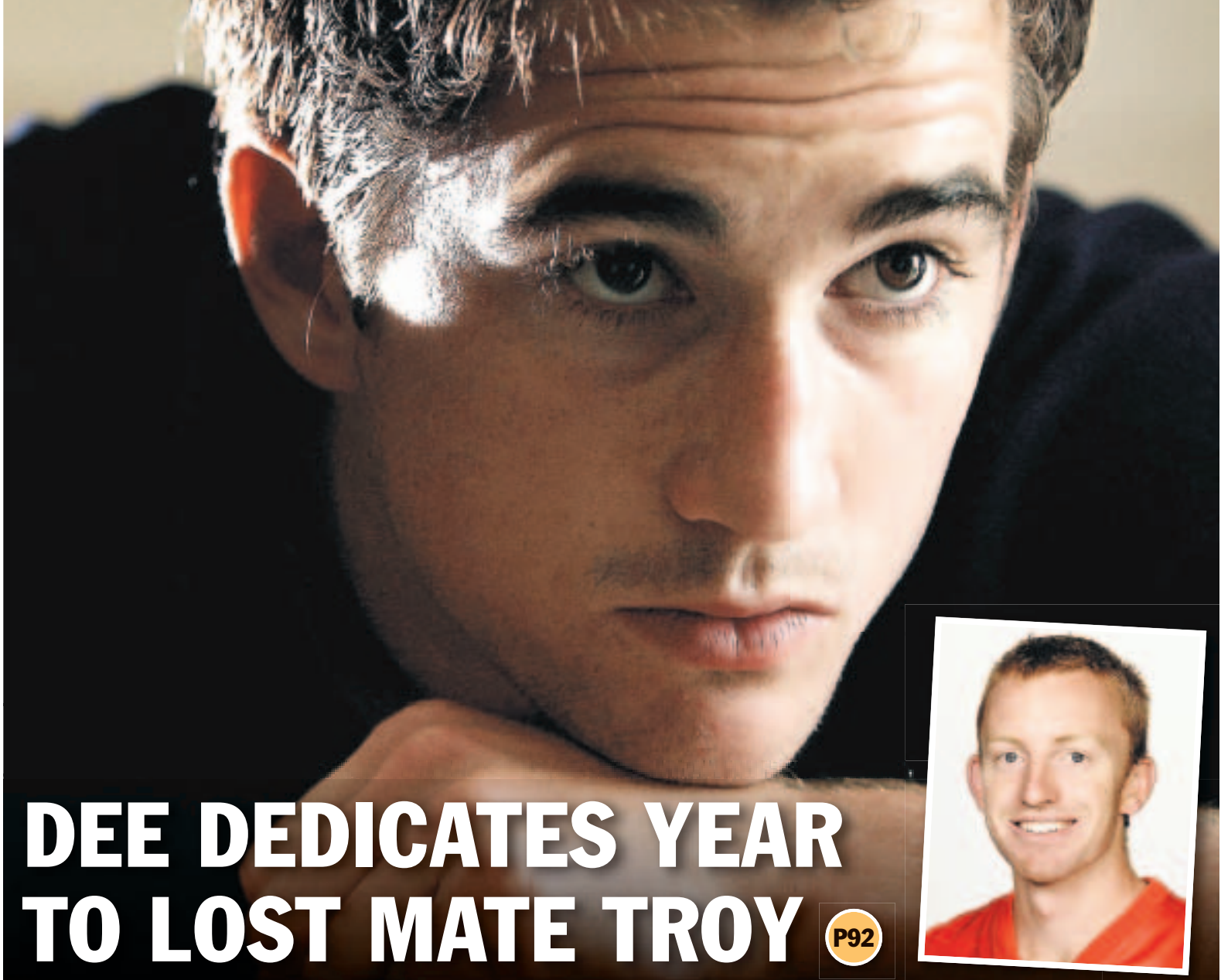
The change is being mooted because of a new tribunal formula that gives credits for past good behaviour and whacks players with extra weeks for prior sins.

AFL football operations manager Adrian Anderson is concerned that two players could be found guilty of the same offence in the same season yet only one would be eligible.

"If it's for the same act and one player's eligible and one's not then it doesn't seem right," Anderson said.

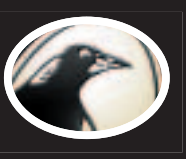
For example, Dustin Fletcher's poor record in the past three years would result in him being suspended for a low-level striking offence under the new system. But Peter Riccardi would get a 25 per cent discount for an identical offence because he has not been suspended in the past five years.

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## DEE DEDICATES YEAR TO LOST MATE TROY

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## Why Magpie fans can start planning their September holidays



**Sheahan rates Collingwood** **P91**

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