

# The real David King steps up for Patriots

THE name confusion over the New England Patriots' Australian recruit is over.

The NFL club was quick to apologise after reporting it had signed former North Melbourne player, **David King**, 38, a two-time All-Australian and dual premiership player with the Kangaroos, as its punter.

In fact, the Patriots have actually signed **David King**, 28, of Bundaberg, whose last Aussie Rules match was with Norwood in the Eastern Football League. Not that the retired Kangaroos player would mind the contract deal — US-bound David King is getting a minimum base salary of



\$US285,000 (\$A315,000) per season, as set out under NFL rules. In addition, most of King's home games will be played in front of a capacity crowd of 68,756 at Gil-

lette Stadium. That's about 68,000 more people than King has ever played any form of football in front of before.

It might even be enough to profit under an Ethihad Stadium deal. King learned his new trade under the OzPunt program operated by **Cameron McGillivray** in Melbourne, who has since placed five of his pupils into US colleges on athletic scholarships.

"David's deal with New England has paved the way for our other punters," McGillivray said.

In the wake of King's deal, **Jay Karutz** has gone to Eastern Michigan, **Jonny Mullings** to Iowa, **Rhys Felton** to Idaho State, **Luke**

**Burgess** to Culver Stockton, and **Josh Armstrong** to Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

McGillivray says it will be a baptism of fire for his old pupil when he turns out for the Patriots — and he should get a game. On signing, King was the only punter on the club's roster.

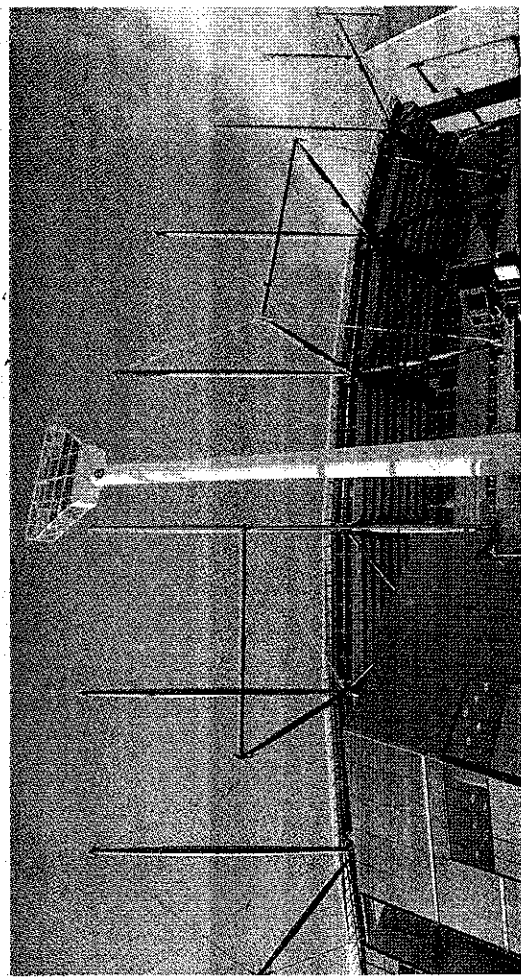
"The first NFL game David sees live will also be the first NFL game he plays in, as he has only ever watched the NFL on TV before," McGillivray told Sporting Life.

"Not too shabby for a local footballer from Bundaberg." King will get plenty of time to learn his new sport from the sidelines. According to research released in

January, the average NFL match broadcast lasts 185 minutes. Of that, an average of 10 minutes and 43 seconds is made up of something called play. Indeed, a typical NFL broadcast has 56 per cent more time devoted to replays than actual play, a little over 12½ minutes. Unless you're watching ESPN, then you'll get up to 24 minutes of replays. Of that 11 minutes of action, punters such as King contribute just seconds.

Other Australians to join NFL rosters this season after succeeding at US kicking camps, are **Jy Bond** at the New York Giants and **Chris Bryan** with the Green Bay Packers.

## On yer trike for a view of the 'G

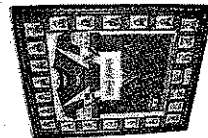


## Selling off memories of Storm

MELBOURNE Storm is two-  
zip since the club was  
rocked by the salary cap  
scandal that may well go  
down as the worst example  
of systemic cheating in  
Australian sports history.

Many fans have rallied  
behind the embattled club,  
but others are out for good.

One has even put his entire Melbourne Storm collection of "memorabilia, merchandise, up for sale via an online auction site — with a starting price of just one cent. "I can even deliver all this junk to Visy Park if you like at my expense," states the disgruntled former Storm fan.



card, 2009 premiers guernsey, keyring, premiers scarf, the DVDs of both stripped premier-ships and a signed and framed 2007 premiers guernsey. "All framed items have been taken off the walls of my house as I can no longer look at these items with pride," states the ad. "The 2010 membership is valid and I hope you enjoy the new stadium."

The ad concludes with the ironic: "We are the Storm and we're number one . . . To prove the fan is serious, they are even throwing in their one loved, and no doubt much loved, Melbourne Storm stubby holder."