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Swan Davis may take a punt on the US

Adrian Prosenko | October 19, 2008

ONLY days after being told he was no longer required by the Swans, Nick Davis has set himself a new challenge — to make it as a punter in America's National Football League.

Davis is trying to follow fellow AFL converts Ben Graham, Saverio Rocca and Mat McBriar onto the megabucks stage that is American football.

He kicked a gridiron ball for the first time during the week in two secret sessions with Australian-based NFL scouts OzPunt in Melbourne. The results were encouraging: most NFL punt kicks have a hang-time of about 4.5 seconds, and Davis' best strike remained airborne for 5.12.

It was the first time Davis had kicked a ball since injuring a knee in August.

OzPunt taped the session and will distribute the footage to NFL clubs this week. "It's something I've watched on TV and thought it may be something I could do," Davis said.

"There's a few different technique things that I've got to work on, but (OzPunt) were pretty happy and I met all the criteria the NFL scouts are looking for. I had one trip over to LA and loved it over there. It would be the opportunity of a lifetime to try something different."

OzPunt's Cameron McGillivray believes Davis has what it takes to make the switch, saying: "What impressed me was his ability to take his AFL kicking style and adapt it to the NFL style of punting in such a short time. By the end of the second day, he was hitting punts that would be well received by NFL coaches. He was getting five-second hang times, and he makes it look so easy.

"Nick will now aim for the Australian championships, run by OzPunt in Melbourne in mid-December. He'll then head off to America in March for trials with NFL teams. Nick is very confident in his ability to make it in the NFL, and I believe this will hold him in good stead when he is battling it out with seasoned NFL punters."

Despite his interest in American football, Davis stressed he hadn't given up hope of reigniting his AFL career and would nominate for the national and pre-season drafts.

"I think I've still got a lot to offer to the AFL, but now I've also got something to fall back on," he said.

"I can take a lot of heart out of what Stuey Dew accomplished this year. He was instrumental in

Hawthorn's third quarter in the grand final."



Nick Davis has tested his punting skill.

Photo: *Wayne Taylor*

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