



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

#32 DAVID BARTON



Eagles recruit David Barton is hoping his move to Vermont will be the launch pad to erase a nightmare that has continued to constantly haunt him on a regular basis. Rewind to Sunday September the 23rd 2012 and Barton and his Mt Eliza teammates were minutes away from securing the Mornington Peninsula Nepean Football League Peninsula Division Grand Final against reigning Premiers Frankston YCW. Barton had played his part as a negating defender all but shutting out the competitions premier small forward Ricky Morris in an accomplished performance. But those final minutes saw ecstasy turn to sheer agony as YCW ran over the top of Mt.Eliza kicking three quick goals to clinch their third premiership on the trot by

Mt.Eliza junior set up Barton spent three years with Frankston in the VFL between 2009 - 2011. His time with the Dolphins was interrupted by injury and in turn he never quite got to show his full potential. The 22 year old solidly built Barton has arrived at Terrara Road with his 178 centimetre and 80 kilogram frame in great physical condition. "I'm probably in the best shape I've ever been" stated Barton. "I'm really trying to step it up here and I guess coming to a new club where no one really knows who you are you really want to try to prove yourself. I've so far put in the hard yards and the results have shown in the testing I have done". Having little knowledge of Vermont and the Eastern Football League prior to arriving, Barton is excited about what lies ahead. "The whole club has really surprised me with its professionalism for a local club. Going back to Mt.Eliza from the VFL, well the training was not up to scratch, but coming here it's pretty much on par with what I experienced at Frankston. You get to hear about the League (EFL) having some big name players and the competition being really good". Despite never seeing Matt Greig play in a match I have heard about what he has done over the last six or seven years". So we're does Barton see his role in 2013. "Love to play in the midfield and hope to get a go early on" stated Barton "But also in saying that, the role the role I've played over the years is a small defender, so more than happy to take on the small nippy forwards and get some possessions down back". Barton has been full of praise with a number of his new teammates since arriving at the club. "I've been impressed with Mullsy (Ryan Mullet) for his leadership, Crowey (Ben Crowe) for his intensity on the training track. Xavier Barry - Murphy and Kyle Emley for their fitness and Justin van Unen who has been really good for the contested ball".

THE FINAL WORD:

"It's really good to come in with a bunch of guys really hungry and with a burn in their guts. I can't wait to get started (the season) it's been a long pre season and Im itching at the bit to see what I can do".