

## ***Promising Falcon Dealt Cruel Injury Blow***

GEELONG Falcons coach Andy Allthorpe has confirmed the season is over for young midfielder Darcy Lang as he requires an operation to repair a fractured fibula.

Lang was stretchered off and taken to hospital after suffering the shocking injury in the opening minutes of Vic Country's clash against Vic Metro in the AFL under-18 national championships at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night.

In a major blow, Allthorpe said Lang would be in plaster for the next eight weeks and it would be a further eight weeks before he would be given the all-clear to run again.

That will rule him out of taking part in tests at the AFL Draft Combine and Allthorpe hopes that his form with the Falcons and with Vic Country is enough to convince an AFL club he's worth a chance come national draft time.



*Darcy Lang – in TAC Cup action earlier in 2013  
(Photo: courtesy of Brian Bartlett Photography)*

Lang turns 18 in late November and Allthorpe said he's been the Falcons biggest improver in 2013. He played every game last season and was named in their best players four times from his seven appearances in 2013. He'd also played in all five of Vic Country's national championship games.

"He's improved his defensive side massively this year," Allthorpe said. "Last year he was averaging six or seven tackles a game and he's upped that to double figures, which is massive. "He was having a ripper of a year before this. He was flying. Hopefully he's shown enough (to AFL clubs) with what he's done."

Lang received messages of support on Twitter from the likes of Hawthorn captain Luke Hodge and Jonathan Simpkin – both ex-Colac and Falcons players – on Wednesday night and used his own account to thank everyone for their concerns and well wishes.

His parents Phil and Vicki Lang have been by his bedside since Wednesday night.

Allthorpe said the Falcons would find Lang a match day role for the remainder of their TAC Cup season once he was able to get mobile and well enough to attend their games.

*Brad Green*