**JACK LESLIE DRAFTED BY THE SUNS**

Jack Leslie has joined the esteemed list of Gippsland Power players to be drafted in the first round after being selected at pick 20 by the Gold Coast Suns in the 2013 draft.

Jack’s selection comes off the back of a standout year at TAC Cup level for Gippsland Power, where he was judged the clubs most improved player and named in the TAC Cup team of the year for his consistent performances in the ruck.

Jack also represented Victoria Country in the NAB AFL under 18 Nationals competition during the year where his talent, competitiveness and athleticism were on display for AFL recruiters. He averaged 10 disposals and 16 hit outs in five matches for Victoria Country.

Jack attended the 2013 AFL Draft Combine in October, impressing many with his speed. His time of 2.90sec for the 20m sprint ranked him in the top 10 and is exceptional for a 199cm ruckman.

The Gold Coast Suns will develop Jack as a tall defender, a role not all that unfamiliar to him. Against a rampaging Eastern Ranges this year Jack was shifted onto a dominant Tom Boyd, his shut down defensive effort one of the best individual performances from a Power player all year.

Gold Coast Suns List & Strategy Manager Scott Clayton said the club had snared a strong and combative defender in Jack Leslie. “We think Jack is a future tall defender, and when you find them you have to take them,” Clayton said.

“We really like his attributes; he’s a grunt, aggressive defender and is unbelievably quick.”

Jack will now get to know his new teams which include the likes of AFL superstars Gary Ablett Jnr and Jaeger O'Meara and settle into the Gold Coast as he starts preseason with the club.

All those at Gippsland Power wish Jack all the best for the next phase of his football career and will be keeping a keen eye on his progress at the Suns.