



“Enjoy”

And get the tissues ready

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Elite sport is for everybody and it brings great joy and pleasure to so many in so many different ways.

How good would it be if incoming AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan announced that the AFL would adopt a “Disability Awareness” round from 2015?

IDASA will be writing to him with this suggestion, we hear he is a good guy and he is a South Australian!

The AFL has done a wonderful job with its Breast Cancer Awareness program and other community support program's including the amazing “Indigenous Round” it promotes annually. The educational power the AFL has harnessed has had a profound impact on community recognition and awareness across a plethora of important issues. Disability remains a major issue with strong need for such community education and support

There are two major benefits the AFL could leverage by adopting such a program

Firstly the tragic injury of Neil Sachse while playing for Fitzroy is but a distant memory except for older supporters. The tragedy of such a gifted player being injured in such a manner should not be diminished over time. The wonderful work that Neil has done via his foundation should also be recognised.

The inevitability of the next tragic spinal injury in AFL increases with every round in which no such injury occurs. The removal of the bump has seen a rapid escalation of players leading with their head looking for a cheap free. The inevitability of the consequences of such an approach is distressing but certain.

More importantly than the focus on collision risks promotion by the AFL and the public embracing and display of relationships of AFL Superstars with family, friends and organization of people with disability would enhance community awareness and normalise circumstances that too many choose to ignore. So many clubs, players

and coaches within the AFL Community already have wonderful relationships with people with disability and the families and community groups that support them.

For the AFL to make this a foundation for a week long promotion would be magnificent

The clip below is a breathtaking example of the power of elite sport

Jay Beatty (11) is a child with Down's Syndrome . The young fan of Scottish superstar football team Celtic couldn't believe his eyes when he was handed the champions medal from Manager Neil Lennon, what an amazing thing for Mr Lennon to do!!but superstar player Georgios Samaras made the moment even more special.

BEAUTIFUL to watch, get the tissues ready!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBhI4uNUdJE>

IDASA is proud to announce that on June 21st with the great support of the Port Power football club, The Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority, The Intellectual Disability Association of SA (IDASA) and long term supporter Scott Salisbury of Scott Salisbury Homes, IDASA will host at Adelaide Oval 75 young adults with serious disability for our VIP "AFL Today" program. This will be the fifth year that IDASA has run this event which invites people with disability from Minda, Scosa, Bedford, Novita and Kardinya to an annual AFL match. This year's attendees will bring to over 300 the guests who have benefited by a VIP day at the AFL under this program.

In addition over the last 5 years nearly 400 people with disability have also attended the IDASA organised "Clipsal 500 Today" event

Taking people with disability to such major sporting events is very rewarding

We thank all supporters for their support of this event in particular Darren Chandler of SMA and Richard Kelly of PAFC

Sport has a great role to play in the lives of people with disability

Let's hope that the AFL sees the big time opportunity to throw its support behind people with disability who remain one of the most marginalised groups within our community.

IDASA hopes everybody attending the AFL on June 21 has a great day and thanks again all the sponsors involved.

David Holst

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