

# Rare Bird

**In 2007, Lance Franklin exploded onto the AFL landscape, proving himself to be one of the game's most promising young stars.**

Every so often, a player comes along that causes people to sit up and take notice. This year, that player was 20-year-old Lance Franklin. This year marked his second season in the AFL, plenty was expected from the young Hawthorn star, but even Lance's strongest supporters may not have expected "Buddy" to reach these dizzying heights so early in his career. As the resurgent Hawks fought their way to one of the most successful seasons in recent club history, Lance was a key figure for the club, electrifying their attack and kicking some remarkable goals.

In no match this year was Lance's ability more on show than in the Round Three clash with the Bombers, during which he turned in a scintillating nine goal performance.

"I got lucky, to be honest," says Lance modestly. "A lot of the balls just fell into my arms. I have to thank the guys in the midfield, really. They were unbelievable – the kicking to me was spot on. I was just lucky to get a hold of a few." Lance has become the most talked about player among the recent influx of Indigenous talent that has flooded the AFL. He believes the growing number of Aboriginal players in the league has plenty of positives.

"I think it's really good for the

kids out there to see so many Aboriginal people playing in the AFL," he says. "Indigenous players also add a bit of flare to the game."

This year the Hawks have been providing plenty of excitement for their loyal fans, giving them lots to cheer about, while Lance played in every game of the season and remained among the leading goal scorers in the competition.

"We've played more direct football – that would be the main thing," Lance says. "All the guys have gained another year of maturity and experience.

"We don't know how far we can go this year, but obviously us

young players have a lot more potential yet to be realised, so over the next couple of years we should be moving even further forward."

With plenty of young talent in the ranks, the future is looking bright for the Hawks, with Lance leading the way.

So what is his advice to other young players hoping to follow in his footsteps?

"Follow your dreams," he says. "If you believe you can play football, just keep practicing, train hard and do all the right things off the field. Then you should be right."



REALISING HIS POTENTIAL: LANCE FRANKLIN STARS FOR THE HAWKS.



## PREPARATION BEFORE READING

In 2007, 20 year old Lance "Buddy" Franklin played his second season of AFL for the Hawthorn club. As a key forward, he has helped the club to one of its most successful seasons. He played in every game of the season and was one of the top goal scorer in the league. His best performance of the season was kicking nine goals against Essendon.

Lance is one of the many talented Indigenous players to make their mark on the AFL. His advice to other young players is to follow their dream, believe in themselves and to back this up with hard training and behave professionally off the field.

## ACTIVITY 1: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Which AFL team does Lance Franklin play for?

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2. This is his second season in the AFL.

TRUE

FALSE

3. How would you describe Lance's 2007 season?

Give an example to support your response.

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4. Which game could be described as the highlight of his 2007 season?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Explain why Lance sees it as so positive that there are more Indigenous players coming into the AFL.

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6. What advice does Lance give to other Indigenous players hoping to play AFL?

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7. How do the photos used in this report support the text?

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### ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the report in the boxes below.

(Read the words from the report as well as the sentences around them).

Words from the report	My words that mean the same thing
In 2007, Lance Franklin has exploded onto the AFL landscape, proving himself to be one of the game's most promising young stars.	
Even his strongest supporters may not have expected "Buddy" to reach the dizzying heights he has so early in his career.	
"I got lucky to be honest," says Lance modestly.	
With plenty of young talent in the ranks, the future is looking bright for the Hawks, with Lance leading the way.	
"Follow your dreams," he says. "If you believe you can play football, just keep practicing, train hard and do all the right things off the field."	



### ACTIVITY 3: LANGUAGE FEATURES

1. "Every so often, a player comes along that causes people to sit up and take notice" is an example of

- formal language
- colloquial language
- simile
- alliteration

2. Lance was a key figure, electrifying their attack.

In this sentence, "electrifying their attack" is an example of

- formal language
- metaphor
- alliteration

3. List one example where statistics have been used to illustrate Lance's goal scoring success this season.

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4. Quote four examples from this report where language has been used to praise Lance.

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5. Why have several direct quotes from Lance been used in this report?

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#### ACTIVITY 4: NEWSPAPER REPORT

News reports in newspapers give readers information about events that have recently happened.

Guidelines:

Newspaper reports usually have:

- a headline to grab the reader's attention, often by using puns eg Lance Franklin soars in 2007 season.
- an opening or lead paragraph which gives a summary of the who? what? when? and where? of the event.
- additional information about the answers to these questions, including comments from people who were involved. eg "It's a been a great season for me," stated Lance.
- information about the why and how of the event.
- concise, factual language.

**Imagine you are reporting on Round Three in the AFL where Lance Franklin kicked nine goals against the Essendon Bombers to turn the game in Hawthorn's favour.**

- Use the guidelines to help you organise your newspaper report.
- Write in full sentences and pay attention to spelling and punctuation.
- Write about 300 words.