

= Ken Hall ( footballer ) =

Ken Hall ( born 13 November 1980 ) is a former Australian rules football player from Tasmania . He played junior football in his home state and spent two years in the seniors at North Hobart . Hall then moved to Victoria in 2001 to play for Essendon Football Club 's reserves side in the Victorian Football League ( VFL ) .

He played for the reserves for a year before being drafted onto Essendon 's rookie list for the 2002 season . Hall was promoted to the senior list midway through 2002 and subsequently made his Australian Football League ( AFL ) debut , although he did not record a statistic in what was to be his only AFL match . He was retained on the Bombers ' rookie list for 2003 and was again elevated to the senior list during the season . Although he was often named as an emergency after his promotion , Hall was unable to break into the senior team and Essendon delisted him at the end of 2003 , ending his AFL career .

After being delisted Hall played with the Tasmanian Devils in the VFL for four seasons , before rejoining his old side , Tasmanian Football League ( TFL ) team North Hobart , in 2008 . He won two best and fairest awards and captained the club in his time with North Hobart before retiring at the conclusion of the 2011 season .

= = Early career = =

A Tasmanian native , Hall played junior football for North Hobart Football Club 's under @-@ 18 side in the Tasmanian Football League ( TFL ) , as well as representing his under @-@ 18 state side , the Tassie Mariners , in the TAC Cup . He broke his wrist while playing for North Hobart 's under @-@ 18s in 1997 and broke the same wrist again in April 1998 , this time while playing for the Mariners . Hall recovered from the injury by August and was back playing for the Mariners .

In 1999 , Hall was no longer eligible in the under @-@ 18s and so became a regular fixture in North Hobart 's senior side . He played as a defender , occasionally being required to shut down the opposition 's star players , and was regularly named as one of the Demons ' better players . Hall started the 2000 season playing as a centre half @-@ forward for the Demons , despite his relatively small size . In the first game of the year he kicked a match winning goal as North Hobart defeated Clarence by 11 points . By May , Hall was again playing on the half @-@ back line . His form in defence was described as " reliable " and " solid " in the middle of the season by The Mercury . The young Demons side unexpectedly reached the finals and caused an upset in the semi final against the heavily favoured Burnie Dockers ; Hall was named as the Demons ' " best player without question " by The Mercury . At the conclusion of the season , Hall was named as back pocket in the Tasmanian side and as the North Hobart played with the most potential .

With the breakup of the TFL at the end of the 2000 season , many of Tasmania 's best young footballers , including Hall , moved interstate to try and break into the Australian Football League ( AFL ) and other quality leagues . Hall began training with AFL side Essendon in December 2000 in the hope of being drafted . The Bombers lost draft picks that year due to salary cap violations and Hall went undrafted , but was instead placed on the Bombers ' supplementary list , playing with Essendon 's reserves side in the Victorian Football League ( VFL ) .

= = AFL career = =

After impressing with the reserves in 2001 , Hall was drafted by Essendon with the 46th selection in the 2002 AFL Rookie Draft , thereby placing him on the Bombers ' rookie list . Speaking to The Mercury , Hall described the opportunity as exciting said that it has always been his dream to play in the AFL . In the lead @-@ up to the 2002 season Hall played in all three of Essendon 's pre @-@ season matches , of which the Bombers lost every game . Rookie listed players must be promoted to the senior list before they play a senior AFL match , so Hall began the 2002 season playing in the VFL for Essendon 's reserves team .

When Dean Solomon suffered a season @-@ ending knee injury in late March , Hall was one of

three players in contention to be promoted to the senior list in place of Solomon . After approximately one month of assessment Hall was deemed the most impressive of Essendon 's three rookies and was elevated to the senior list . In early June , Hall played particularly well in defence for the reserves against the Murray Kangaroos , and was subsequently in consideration to play for Essendon 's senior team . Essendon had been plagued by injury throughout 2002 and this , coupled with Hall 's good form in the VFL , resulted in him making his AFL debut in round 12 against Hawthorn . After a poor performance in his debut match , in which he did not record a statistic and spent most of the match on the bench , Hall was dropped back to the VFL side the following round . Despite showing good form in the VFL for the remainder of 2002 , Hall was unable to break back into the senior Bombers line @-@ up . Although Hall failed to have an impact at AFL level , he played well at VFL level and was third in the reserves ' best and fairest award .

Hall was retained on the Bombers ' rookie list for 2003 . Although Essendon had another poor pre @-@ season , losing four of the five matches they played , Hall played in each of the games . He was described as " perform [ ing ] well " in The Age newspaper , and even kicked a goal in the first match . After spending the majority of his career prior to 2003 as a defender , Hall was trialled as a midfielder for the 2003 season , a move which reaped immediate results as he became a " goalscoring weapon " for the Bendigo Bombers ? Essendon 's new VFL @-@ affiliate side ? as well as becoming well known for his penetrating kicking ability .

In early August , Hall kicked four goals in a close win against the Northern Bullants in the VFL , and three days later , Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy declared that Hall and two others were in contention to be promoted to the senior list , even though he had missed out on being elevated two weeks prior . Sheedy proceeded to promote Hall , in place of the injured Joel Reynolds , in order to " see if [ Hall ] will be a viable option come finals time " . He was immediately named in Essendon 's 25 @-@ man squad to play against the Western Bulldogs , but failed to make the starting 22 .

Despite not playing a senior match for the entirety of the regular season , there was media speculation that Hall may be selected for Essendon 's elimination final against Fremantle , due to Sheedy stating that he had " little choice " but to select a youthful team for the match and that " it wouldn 't worry [ him ] " to choose an inexperienced player . However , Sheedy elected not to play Hall in the match , instead selecting him as an emergency . Essendon won the match and moved on to the semi final , where Hall was again an emergency . Essendon lost the semi final and was eliminated from the finals series , ending the Bombers ' season . Although he regularly pushed for selection in 2003 and finished equal second in Bendigo 's best and fairest count , Hall was delisted at season 's end .

= = Post @-@ AFL career = =

After being delisted by the Bombers , Hall was pursued by multiple clubs ; he had offers from VFL sides Coburg , the Tasmanian Devils , Williamstown and Bendigo , as well as South Australian National Football League ( SANFL ) club West Adelaide , before deciding to sign with Devils because he wanted to come home to family and friends . Hall started the 2004 season playing as a forward and , despite moving into the midfield by mid @-@ season , he was still a regular goalkicker . In June he was named in the VFL representative squad to play against the West Australian Football League , but he missed out on the match due to a hip flexor injury that sidelined him for a month . Hall finished the home and away season in fifth place in the The Mercury 's Tasmanian Devils Player of the Year award and in equal third place in the Devils ' best and fairest .

In 2005 Hall was among the best on the ground in an interstate match between the VFL and the SANFL , finished in third in the Devils ' best and fairest count , and was runner up in The Mercury 's Tasmanian Devils Player of the Year award . The 2006 season saw Hall named best on ground in his 100th VFL match , a 24 @-@ point win over Frankston . He was again runner up in The Mercury 's Tasmanian Devils Player of the Year award and also finished as runner up in the team 's best and fairest count . In 2007 journalist Matt Borgan , writing for the AFL website , named Hall in his best 22 players currently from Tasmania , with Hall and Cameron Thurley the only two players who were not listed with an AFL club at the time of selection . Hall was named in the Devils ' leadership group at

the beginning of the 2007 season . He represented Tasmania in an interstate match against Queensland and was awarded the Lefroy Medal as best on ground for the Tasmanians . Hall finished the year winning his first Tasmanian Devils Player of the Year award and coming third in the best and fairest .

After 134 matches and 109 goals in the VFL , Hall left the Devils at the end of the 2007 season , citing work and family reasons ? his wife Lauren was expecting their first child in December 2007 . He proceeded to rejoin North Hobart Football Club in the TFL for 2008 . In his first year with the club Hall won the George Miller Medal , awarded to North Hobart 's best and fairest player for the season . In 2009 , he was described as North Hobart 's " star player " , represented the TFL in a match against the QAFL , and was his team 's only representative in the top 10 of the Tassie Medal , awarded to the league 's best and fairest player .

By 2010 , Hall was the captain of North Hobart , and was one of only four players in the TFL to have senior AFL experience . Hall had another good season in 2010 ; he won his second George Miller Medal , and was described by his coach as one of the league 's five best players and the " best tackler in the competition " . Despite carrying a nagging ankle injury , Hall started the 2011 season well , with The Mercury 's Brett Stubbs writing that he was arguably the second best player in the league . He missed five weeks during the middle of the season and , although he was named best on ground in his comeback match , Hall said that another injury would probably be the end of his career . He played out the reason of the season and finished in ninth place in the State League Player of the Year award , was named on the half @-@ back flank in the TFL Team of the Year , and finished in the top 20 in the Tassie Medal count .

Hall retired from football at the end of the 2011 season ; his coach at North Hobart described Hall as irreplaceable . He came out of retirement in 2013 to spend one season playing for St Virgil 's Old Scholars in the Old Scholars Football Association where he was also an assistant coach . Hall finished second in the league best and fairest in his solitary season for the club .