



Magic 250

Michael O'Loughlin marked his 250th AFL game in grand style last month, with his club defeating the Brisbane Lions in their Round Three clash.

In reaching this milestone, Michael has become only the third Swans player to reach 250 games and has moved to within 10 games of John Rantall, who holds the club record.

Michael played his first AFL match in 1994, running on for the Swans against the Adelaide Crows. Over the past 13 seasons he has become the club's heart and soul, playing in three Grand Finals and winning one premiership. Adding to his 250 game achievement is the series of injuries he has battled and overcome, most notably knee tendonitis.

PREPARATION BEFORE READING

This report tells us that Michael O'Loughlin has played 250 games for the Sydney Swans AFL club. He is only the third Swans player to reach 250 games and now he's within 10 games of the club record.

Michael started playing for the Swans in 1994 and has now played 13 seasons with the club. He has played in three Grand Finals and was part of the Swans Premiership team of 2005.



ACTIVITY 1: READ MAGIC 250 PAGE 13

Skimming for main ideas

1. Which Sydney Swans player has played 250 games for the club?

2. When did he play his first AFL match?

3. Which team did he play against?

4. What has been Michael's main problem with injuries?

ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. This report says that 250 games is an important milestone for Michael.

What does "important milestone" mean?

2. It says that over the past 13 seasons, Michael has become the club's heart and soul.

What does "become the club's heart and soul" mean?

3. Swans defeated the Brisbane Lions in Michael's 250th game.

TRUE

FALSE



ACTIVITY 3: MORE ABOUT MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN

Number	19
Team	Sydney Swans
Date of birth	February 20, 1977
Origin	Central District (SANFL)
Height	189cm
Weight	94kg
Position	Forward
Games	254
Career highlights	Bob Skilton Medal 1998 (Club Best and Fairest)
	Member of Premiership team 2005
	Indigenous Team of the Century 2005



Read more about Michael O'Loughlin, then answer the questions. Colour in the bubble to show your answer.

1. Michael O'Loughlin is a

- runner
- football player
- hockey player

2. What is Michael's weight?

- 189cm
- 94 kg

3. When was Michael named in the Indigenous Team of the Century?

- 1977
- 1998
- 2005

4. Look at the picture. What is Michael O'Loughlin doing?

- starting in a race
- playing football
- playing tennis



ACTIVITY 4: WATCHING THE GRAND FINAL.

Below is the beginning of a story. Imagine you are in the stadium watching the Grand Final of your favourite sport.

The crowd cheered ferociously, their voices echoing through the stadium. Brilliant flashes of colour lit up the sky as fireworks exploded, while all around us the crowd waved bright banners madly around.

We knew that this was going to be one of the toughest games of the season.

Continue this story by describing more about what it was like to be at the Grand Final, how you felt and what happened next.

- Write more of the story, but you do not have to finish it.
- Use descriptive words and phrases to make your story interesting and to make your readers feel how exciting the game was.
- Write in full sentences.
- Pay attention to spelling and punctuation.
