

# VIBE ACTIVITIES

## Big Nate – *Our answer to Shaquille O'Neal* pages 18 and 19

# Big Nate

## Our answer to Shaquille O'Neal

**I**N A SPORT THAT IS OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINATED BY INCREDIBLE ATHLETES, MAINLY TALL, FAST AND AGILE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN, IT'S NOT TOO OFTEN THAT ONE OF OUR OWN MAKES THE CUT, BUT THE FIRST INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN TO PLAY IN THE NBA, NATHAN JAWAI, HAS ACHIEVED THIS AMAZING FEAT AND IS MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF THE WORLD OVER.

27-year-old Nathan, dubbed 'Big Nate' by Toronto commentators, towers at a monstrous 6'10" (208cm) with a wingspan of 7'5" (226cm) and weighs 127kg, making him a power forward to be reckoned with.

Nate has played in the NBL, NBA and the Euroleague, and he says that it's an amazing feeling to be the first Torres Strait Islander man to be drafted in the NBA.

"It feels very special. I'm proud of it, I'm proud of our people and obviously Patrick (Mills)... I'm very proud for him to be able to be in the NBA, too – he's done a great job. Me, being the first, and him, being the second, it's special, you know?" he says.

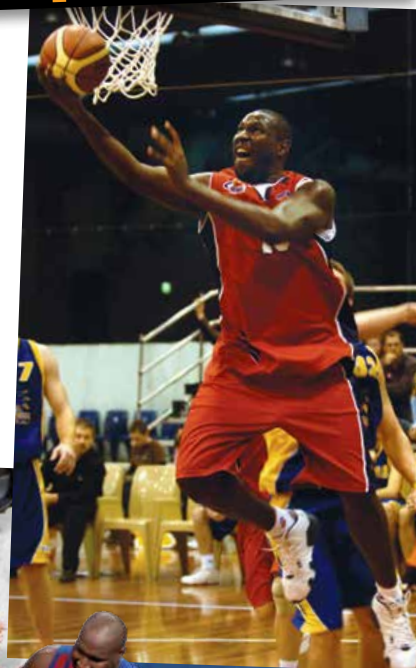
At the moment, Nate is training at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra. He's taking a break from playing for the Turkish team Galatasaray Liv Hospital, based in Istanbul, because of a neck injury that he sustained last year.

"It was a very bad neck injury and concussion that I had in Istanbul this season and I'm just taking

some time off to basically get myself right and take it easy," he explains.

As well as having lived in Turkey, Nate also lived in the USA and he has played in many other parts of the globe. He says he misses Aussie food when he's away, but the experience has been a blessing and makes him a good role model for our kids.

"I get to see different places and meet different people and make friends in different countries. It's tough though because you don't have the Island food, your family is far away and you're away for basically the whole year," he says.



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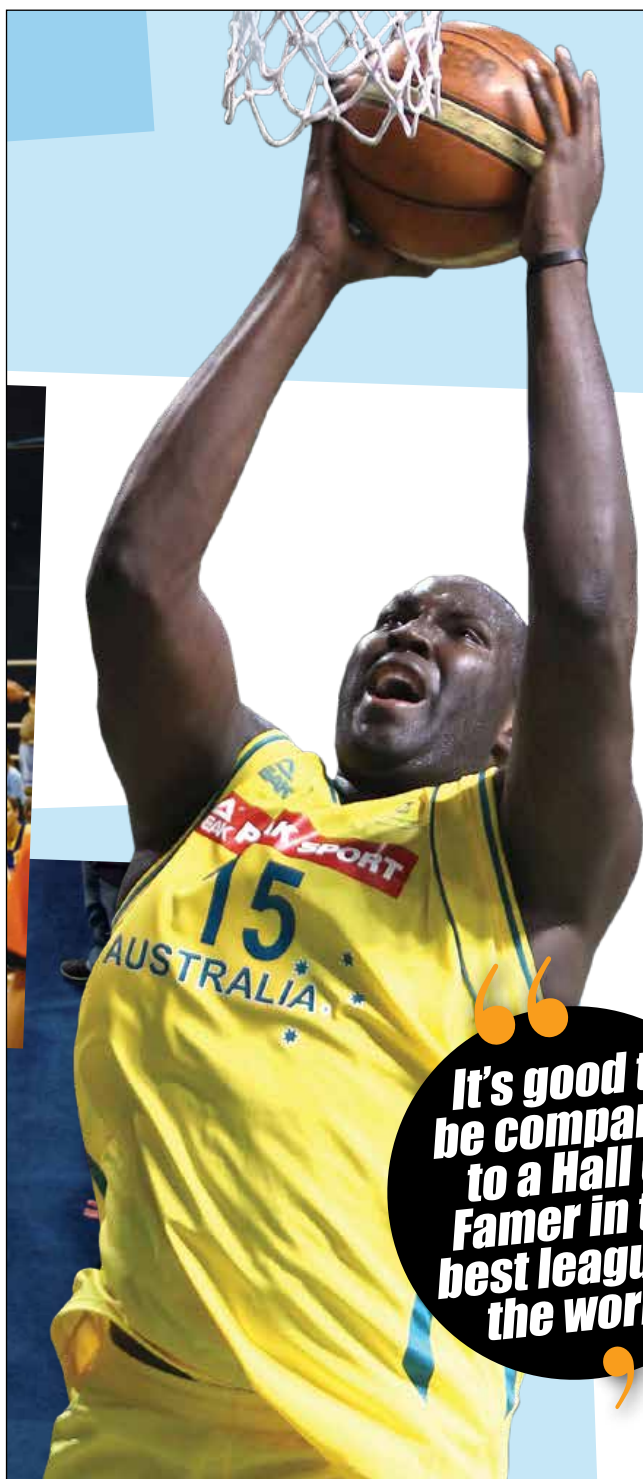
Y E A R

7-8

Issue 205

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"It's definitely getting tougher for me over the years because I'm starting to miss all the stuff back at home, but being Indigenous and travelling all over the world can also make an example for young kids out there. They can do it, if Pat and I can do it."

He says that Spain was his favourite country because it suited his relaxed personality. However, that relaxed nature doesn't flow over to his sport. In fact, Nathan's very clear on where he's headed: the Australian Men's National Basketball Team.

"I think it's time for me to concentrate and get myself back and have a chance to make the Boomers team. I'm getting older now, so yeah I'd love to make the Boomers team and go to the world championships. That's my focus right now," he says.

After that, Nate says that he will go with whatever opportunity suits him the best and he will continue to represent his people.

On his American travels, Nate was compared to the legendary basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal because of their apparent likeness. This resulted in nicknames like 'Outback Shaq' and 'Baby Shaq', but for now, he prefers 'Nate'.

"We're different players, you know? He's an NBA Hall of Famer. I can see that we have comparisons that we're big, but he's bigger than me. I don't think we look alike, I think it's just the physique and the size, and I'm pretty agile for my size," he says.

"It's good to be compared to a Hall of Famer in the best league in the world, but at this time I'm nowhere near as good as he is."

However, there's no doubt that Nate is an exceptional athlete. In his career so far, he has already accomplished some incredible feats.

"Winning the Serbian National Championships, I guess, obviously the NBA draft, and making the final four in the Euroleague, which is the second best league in the world in my opinion," he says of his accomplishments.

"When I started playing at 17 I was so far behind, but I kept on hanging in there and it changed for me. Now I love the game. It's a big part of my life right now."

**It's good to be compared to a Hall of Famer in the best league in the world.**

**Nathan Jawai is the first Indigenous Australian to play in the NBA.**  
**READ *Big Nate- Our answer to Shaquille O'Neal* pages 18 and 19**

## ACTIVITY 1

### BUILDING READING SKILLS

- skimming and scanning for information.
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures.
- reading for meaning.
- making connections between the text and your world.

**There are three levels of comprehension questions:**

- Literal** The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
- Inferred** You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
- Applied** The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.



**1 Use the information in the report to fill in this table about Nathan Jawai.** (literal)

Name	
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Position	
Current team	

**2 What is the main idea of this report?** (inferred)

- ☐ Nate is similar to Shaquille O'Neal.
- ☐ Nate has made a great achievement to be drafted into the NBA.
- ☐ Nate is a Torres Strait Islander.
- ☐ Basketball players are great athletes.



## 3 Which one of these statements is not true?

(inferred)

- ☐ Nate has played in the NBL, NBA and Euroleague.
- ☐ Nate sustained a neck injury last year.
- ☐ Nate is currently in Turkey playing with a Turkish team.
- ☐ Nate is the first Indigenous Australian to be drafted into the NBA.



## 4 The text says that Nate is, "making a name for himself the world over." What does this mean?

(inferred)

- ☐ Everyone knows who he is.
- ☐ He has changed his name.
- ☐ He is trying to break into the international basketball league.
- ☐ He is gaining an international reputation as an elite basketball player.

## 5 Explain the purpose for adding the pictures to the written text.

(applied)

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## 6 Justify your reasons for including Nathan Jawai in the Australian basketball team, the Boomers.

(applied)

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## ACTIVITY 2

### LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - SPELLING

- 1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.  
Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

Comentaters call him "Big Nate."

He ways 127kg.

He was draughted into the NBA.

Write  
your answer  
in the box.

- 2** Unscramble these words from the text.

d d e o m n i a t

i a c v h e e d

z g a a m n i

Write  
your answer  
in the table.

- 3** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.  
Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

He is currantly training in Canberra.

He sustaned an injury last year.

He also had concushon.

Write  
your answer  
in the box.



# ACTIVITY 3

## LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

### 1 Which is not a correct sentence?

- ☐ It's not too often that an Indigenous player makes the NBA.
- ☐ Players train hard so he can be drafted into the NBA.
- ☐ Nate has played in the NBA.
- ☐ What a talented athlete Nate is!



### 2 Which pair of words completes this sentence correctly?

If ☐ staying for training, you will need ☐ shoes.

- ☐ your      your
- ☐ your      you're
- ☐ you're    your
- ☐ you're    you're

### 3 Which word from this sentence describes the basketball player? The determined player crashed the boards at the opposite end of the court.

- ☐ determined
- ☐ player
- ☐ crashed
- ☐ opposite

### 4 When the game's over, Nate's team (Galata sa ray Liv Hospital) will congratulate the winner's. This sentence contains an error in the use of

- ☐ an apostrophe.
- ☐ a comma.
- ☐ brackets.
- ☐ a capital letter.

## 5 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ Nathan jawai is the first Torres Strait Islander to be drafted into the NBA.
- ☐ Nathan Jawai is the first Torres Strait Islander to be drafted into the NBA.
- ☐ Nathan Jawai is the first torres strait islander to be drafted into the NBA.
- ☐ Nathan Jawai is the First Torres Strait Islander to be Drafted into the NBA.

Shade one bubble.

## ACTIVITY 4 WRITING A NARRATIVE

### 1 TOPIC – My fishing adventure



Write your story on a paper.



The common Stages and phases of an effective narrative often include:

Stages	phases
<b>Orientation</b>	This sets the scene, creating a visual picture of the setting, atmosphere and time of the story. Characters are introduced and clues are set in place for the coming complication.
	Sequence of events that is expected.
<b>Complication</b>	An unexpected problem or complication occurs that affects the main character. This usually creates tension.
	Characters react to the problem.
	Problem seems to be resolved.
	A new problem occurs, which is now often worse than before.
<b>Resolution</b>	The problem is solved and the story ends.

**Brainstorm** your ideas for your story.

**Orientation** – characters, setting, background information, problem.

**Complication** – major problem that the main character (protagonist) has to solve.

**Resolution** – how the problem is solved.

**Remember to:**

- engage your audience through descriptions and building tension.
- write in a narrative structure.
- connect your ideas clearly.
- start with an attention-grabbing Orientation.
- make sure you have a clearly developed Complication.
- extend your vocabulary.
- write in sentences.
- use a new paragraph for each new idea.
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation.
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.