

VIBE ACTIVITIES

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Patrick Mills wins NBA glory

Landmark moment in Indigenous sport

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER BASKETBALL STAR, PATRICK MILLS HAS EARNED A SPECIAL PLACE IN AUSTRALIAN SPORTING HISTORY AFTER PLAYING AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS' NBA CHAMPIONSHIP TRIUMPH OVER THE MIAMI HEAT.

Mills, 25, could do no wrong, after coming off the bench in game five of the best of seven game series to score 17 points in 18 minutes, extinguishing the Heat's flame and denying them their third straight NBA championship, 104-87.

"The support has been great all year," an ecstatic Mills told San Antonio reporters. "The community of San Antonio has been great; you know how important you guys are to us."

"You're a part of this win, as much as anyone. I can't tell you how nice and genuine the people of San Antonio are compared to anyone else; it reminds me a lot of Australia."

"This one is for you [the fans] and thanks for all your support."

Mills and his Spurs' teammate, Aron Baynes, became the third and fourth Australians to win the prestigious NBA championship title, joining Australian basketball legends Andrew Gaze (Spurs) and Luc Longley (Chicago Bulls).

Patrick, the second Indigenous Australian to play in the NBA after Nathan Jawai, also became the first Indigenous Australian to win an NBA championship.

With talks of multi-million dollar contract offers in the mix, a now off-contract Mills will soon

have a tough decision to make when lucrative offers start rolling in from rival clubs. But for now he's happy celebrating the Spurs' win.

"People keep asking me [about my future], but I honestly haven't thought about it," Mills told the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"I don't even know how the free agency works. I don't know when it starts; I'm just trying to soak everything in and live in this moment. I want to make the most of it."

"To have any other thoughts in my mind other than the championship ... this is a feeling you don't want to be distracted from, it's unbelievable."

The 183cm, 84kg point-guard may not be the tallest or strongest player on the court, but what Patrick lacks in size,

he makes up for in speed and accuracy. This skill has seen him go from a towel-waving benchwarmer to a genuine impact player.

Patrick only played 13 minutes in the NBA finals last year, but an off-season fitness regime and personal chef has seen him reach a new level of fitness.

"His energy has been important all season long. That energy, that team sense he has, has become infectious for everyone," says Spurs' coach Gregg Popovich.

Mills has always worn his Indigenous Australian colours proudly, and as the Spurs celebrated their victory, he draped himself with the Torres Strait Island flag. Now, Patrick's against-the-odds journey from humble beginning to the very elite level of international sport will be brought to the screen, with a documentary by photographer and videographer, Rush, currently in the works.



Patrick Mills plays basketball for the San Antonio Spurs in America. His team recently won the championship against Miami Heat.

He is the first Indigenous player to win an NBA championship.



ACTIVITY 1 COMMON NOUNS

- 1** Draw a line to match these common nouns with their pictures.
Remember – A common noun can be a person, place or thing.



player



court



mouth guard



shorts



goal



basketball



shoes



shirt

ACTIVITY 2

COMMON NOUNS

1 Colour the common nouns.

shoes

cheer

team

winner

run

catch

basketball

shirt

shirt

fans

ACTIVITY 3

COLOUR THE VERBS

1 Remember – verbs are doing words.

dribble

play

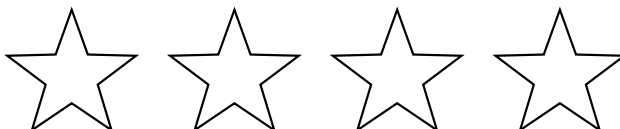
player

shoot

compete

champion

Colour a star each time you find a verb.



ACTIVITY 4

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES



1

player

plays

played

playing

Patrick Mills plays _____ basketball.

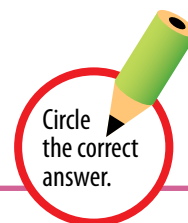
He is the first indigenous _____ to win a championship.

He _____ for 18 minutes in the game last week.

"I love _____ in this team," said Patrick.

ACTIVITY 5

TRUE OR FALSE?



Patrick Mills plays basketball in America.

TRUE

FALSE

His team is called the Miami Heat.

TRUE

FALSE

Patrick Mills is the second Indigenous player to win an NBL championship.

TRUE

FALSE

Patrick Mills is 25 years of age.

TRUE

FALSE

Patrick Mills is a fast player and a very good shooter.

TRUE

FALSE