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AFL Injury Report: Key Players Sidelined Across Clubs

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A string of injuries across multiple AFL clubs is reshaping team strategies as the 2025 season heads into its final stretch. With finals approaching, several high-profile players remain sidelined or face fitness tests ahead of Round 21.

Carlton's injury woes deepen, with star midfielder Sam Walsh ruled out for at least two weeks due to a hamstring strain sustained in last week's match. The club confirmed Walsh's absence will be reassessed before Round 23, but his loss is a significant blow as Carlton fights to secure a top-eight finish.

Collingwood is also under pressure, with Jamie Elliott ruled out for the remainder of the season following shoulder surgery. The Magpies are hopeful defender Darcy Moore will return in two weeks after recovering from a concussion. The return of Moore would be a timely boost as the club prepares for a difficult run home.

Essendon has added Peter Wright to its injury list after the key forward suffered a knee injury. While scans cleared him of structural damage, the club has listed him as “test,” meaning his availability will be determined closer to game day. Defender Mason Redman is also under assessment for a groin issue.

Geelong faces longer-term concerns with both Patrick Dangerfield (calf) and Mitch Duncan (hamstring) expected to be sidelined for up to a month. Geelong’s injury list now includes five starting players, creating depth challenges for coach Chris Scott.

Meanwhile, Melbourne remains relatively healthy, with only minor niggles reported. Christian Petracca, who had been under a minor injury cloud earlier in the season, has returned to full fitness and played strongly in recent weeks.

Richmond’s Noah Balta has been listed as “test” after an ankle knock in training. The Tigers are hopeful he can return this week, but will not rush a decision. Dion Prestia remains out indefinitely with a persistent hamstring issue, and no specific return date has been set.

Across the league, clubs are managing player loads carefully, with some opting to rest key personnel ahead of crucial matches. With just three rounds remaining, selection decisions will be increasingly influenced by medical reports.

The AFL injury list will be updated again ahead of Round 22. Clubs are expected to confirm final team line-ups on Thursday evening.