# Bailey Smith faces backlash over drug reference on Instagram after key Cats win



Geelong star Bailey Smith has found himself engulfed in controversy yet again, drawing attention not only for his impressive performance on the field but also for a questionable Instagram post regarding drug use. Following his pivotal role in the Cats' narrow victory over the Bulldogs—where he amassed 33 disposals and six clearances—Smith's celebration took an unexpected turn. A comment from a follower referencing 'nose beers'—a slang term for cocaine—prompted a reply from Smith that suggested he might indulge in such activities after winning a flag. Although the post was swiftly deleted, it had already sparked significant backlash.

Geelong coach Chris Scott has come to Smith's defence, suggesting that in an age where social media blurs the lines of acceptable banter, a more nuanced view of humour and context is required. “If you are going to embrace this idea that the new world is sharing everything online... but as soon as it goes over the line we all have conniptions,” he stated during an ABC radio interview. Scott advocated for a balanced perspective, reminding critics that Smith is still young at 24 and should not be overly vilified for youthful exuberance that straddles the line of acceptability.

This isn't the first time Smith has faced scrutiny regarding his off-field behaviour. In June 2022, he came under fire after images circulated showing him with an illicit substance. At the time, Smith admitted to using the substance and connected his actions to deteriorating mental health following the Bulldogs' disappointing loss in the 2021 Grand Final. The Western Bulldogs expressed disappointment and publicly committed to supporting Smith’s wellbeing. A subsequent AFL investigation resulted in a two-match suspension for the star player, who expressed deep remorse for his actions. “I just want to say I’m truly sorry to the club, my teammates, my family, and all the supporters for what I’ve done,” he said during that turbulent period.

Scott’s remarks about maintaining perspective also reflect a broader cultural phenomenon within sport, where athletes are often in the spotlight for both their on-field exploits and off-field utterances. The line between entertainment and responsibility appears increasingly blurred, causing tension in public perception. While the AFL generally upholds strict codes of conduct, instances such as Smith's bring about discussions on the evolving nature of societal expectations.

In a competitive landscape where maintaining a certain image is crucial, Smith's antics have elicited mixed reactions. While some fans appreciate his edgy approach, others fear that it trivialises serious issues, especially concerning drug use and mental health in sport. With an ongoing discourse about athlete welfare and accountability, Smith’s situation serves as a reminder of the complexities facing young sports stars today. As he navigates the pressures of public life and professional sport, the need for support systems within teams has never been more critical.

Ultimately, the question remains: how much leeway should athletes have in expressing themselves, and at what point does it cross from comedic banter into problematic territory? As the sports community grapples with these issues, Bailey Smith stands at the centre, prompting a dialogue that could shape the future landscape of professional sports culture.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/afl/article-14746647/Bailey-Smith-sparks-controversy-nose-beers-remark-Geelong-coach-defends-superstar.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-11/western-bulldogs-disappointed-bailey-smith-illicit-substance/101145172> - In June 2022, images emerged showing Western Bulldogs star Bailey Smith with an illicit substance. The club expressed disappointment, emphasizing their commitment to appropriate behavior and support for Smith's health and wellbeing. Smith admitted to the behavior, attributing it to deteriorating mental health post-2021 Grand Final loss, and apologized to all involved parties. The AFL initiated an investigation into the matter.
3. <https://www.sportingnews.com/au/afl/news/bailey-smith-admits-using-illicit-substances-after-images-emerge-social-media/rgbkymzbt8qsndr9ruro9p5b> - Following the circulation of images and videos on social media depicting Bailey Smith with an illicit substance, the Western Bulldogs star appeared to admit to previous use. Smith acknowledged the behavior, expressing determination to learn from his past mistakes and improve in the future. He attributed his actions to a period of deteriorating mental health after the 2021 Grand Final loss.
4. <https://www.afl.com.au/news/780846/western-bulldog-bailey-smith-banned-for-two-games-for-using-illicit-substance> - Bailey Smith received a two-match suspension from the AFL after admitting to using an illicit substance. The suspension followed the emergence of photos and a video showing Smith with the substance. Smith apologized for his conduct, expressing deep shame and acknowledging the impact of his actions on the club and the AFL community.
5. <https://www.afl.com.au/news/777714/dogs-launch-investigation-into-bailey-smith-photo> - The AFL launched an investigation into Bailey Smith after photos and a video surfaced showing him with an illicit substance. Smith issued a public apology, attributing the incident to deteriorating mental health following the 2021 Grand Final loss. The AFL's integrity unit is examining the content and its emergence on social media.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jun/11/western-bulldogs-investigate-star-bailey-smith-over-white-powder-images> - The Western Bulldogs initiated an investigation after images surfaced showing Bailey Smith holding a bag of white powder at a party. Smith admitted to possessing an illicit substance, attributing his actions to deteriorating mental health post-2021 Grand Final loss. He apologized to his family, teammates, the Bulldogs, the AFL, and sponsors, expressing determination to learn from his past mistakes.
7. <https://7news.com.au/sport/afl/cauldron-of-boos-rain-down-on-bailey-smith-for-unusual-hit-on-jarman-impey-c-18441169> - Bailey Smith faced boos from the crowd after an incident where he hit Hawthorn defender Jarman Impey in the face with the ball during a match. Smith admitted it was an unusual act and expressed regret, stating it was part of the game's intensity. Geelong coach Chris Scott did not see the need for further action, acknowledging Smith's awareness of the incident.