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Sporting intelligence

THE sports uniform of the future could be an animated, computer-controlled display showing a player's score, stats and even the game clock — and a prototype has been built by a computer student.

University of Sydney student Mitchell Page has used cuttingedge wearable technology to build a 21st century basketball uniform.

Flexible, glowing panels on players' torsos indicate their score, stripes on the shoulders show their foul count and chest panels show the shot clock and the game clock. The panels are controlled by a computer the size of two packs of cards, strapped to the players and updated over a wireless network.

Mr Page, who built the jersey as part of his bachelor of design computing degree, said players who used his prototypes found it improved their play. They were more relaxed because they were more informed about the game.

The players rejected an idea to include fatigue and heart-rate indicators — but he believes that could prove useful in training.

He hopes to develop the technology further with sports brands and the Australian Institute of Sport. NICK MILLER