



Rugby Union prodigy Kurtley Beale took a step closer to his international football debut recently when he joined the Wallabies training camp.

Last August, *Deadly Vibe* ran a story on young rugby sensation Kurtley Beale. At the time, then 16-year-old Kurtley was starring for his high school, St Josephs in Sydney, a well-known breeding ground for Union greats.

While Kurtley was already being tipped as a future Wallaby, few thought that his ascent into the Australian side would progress so rapidly.

Last month, Kurtley spent three days at Camp Wallaby at Coffs Harbour on the NSW north coast, in an attempt by

national coach John Connolly and selectors to fast-track his progress ahead of next year's World Cup in France.

By the end of the camp, Kurtley had impressed the Wallabies coaching staff so much that John suggested Kurtley have an extended stay with the team.

John's thoughts were backed up by champion five-eighth Stephen Larkham, who views Kurtley as being his natural successor as the Australian half. Larkham was also impressed with Kurtley's training stint with the team and supported calls for Kurtley to remain in camp with the Wallabies.

Larkham first met Kurtley during a coaching clinic at St Josephs when Kurtley was only 14. Skill-wise he believes Kurtley is ready for

international football, but as he is still only 17 he'll need to bulk up to withstand the physical rigours of international rugby.

Mindful of what a precocious talent he is, the Australian Rugby Union will not be running the risk of injury by rushing him into the Wallabies prematurely. However, it doesn't seem that it will be too long before we see Kurtley in a green and gold jersey, having already come away from the camp establishing himself as the number one contender for the Wallabies future fly half.

For now, Kurtley still has his final year at St Josephs and his HSC to take care of, but following that, many are tipping that we will see Kurtley starring for the Waratahs in next years Super 14's.





ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the heading (Wallaby in waiting), the first paragraph in bold (Rugby union prodigy Kurtley Beale took a step closer to his International football debut recently when he joined the Wallabies' training camp), the photograph at the bottom of page 12 and the caption above the photograph (Kurtley in action for St. Joeys).

1. What do you think this report will be about?

2. Why is Kurtley Beale now a step closer to his International football debut?

3. Which school does Kurtley Beale play rugby union for?

ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Read paragraph 2.

Find and write the words that tell us that Kurtley Beale is considered a very good rugby union player.

2. Another way to say that St Josephs in Sydney is a well-known breeding ground for Union greats is

3. What are three things that the photograph at the bottom of this page tells us about Kurtley?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

You may have to look up some unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

Words Meaning

"Rugby Union prodigy"

"...few thought that his ascent into the Australian side would progress so rapidly."



Kurtley spent three days at the Wallabies training camp at Coffs Harbour in an attempt to “fast-track his progress”...

“...Stephen Larkham said that Kurtley was his “natural successor as the Australian half.”

ACTIVITY 4: SOME AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

Read through the Australian Rugby Individual Records and answer the questions below.

Australian Rugby Individual Records

(as at 04.09.05)

Most Consecutive Tests:	62 by JWC Roff (1996-2004)
Most Capped Player:	114 by GM Gregan (1994-2005)
Wing:	85 [101]** by DI Campese (1982-1996)
Centre:	69 [80]*** by TJ Horan (1989-2000)
Flyhalf:	70 [82]***** by SJ Larkham (1996-2005)

** Campese played 16 Tests at fullback

*** Horan played 2 Tests on the wing and 9 Tests at flyhalf

***** Larkham played 1 Test as a reserve winger and 11 Tests at fullback

from

http://www.rugby.com.au/qantas_wallabies/wallaby_statistics/individual_records,34982.html

1. Which Wallaby has played the most games for Australia (most capped)?

2. Which Wallaby has played the most games for Australia in the wing position?

3. What extra information does the ** add to this statistic?

4. Which Wallaby has played the most games for Australia in the flyhalf position?

5. What extra information does the ***** add to this statistic?

FURTHER RESEARCH:

To read more about the Wallabies Rugby Union team, go to:

<http://www.rugby.com.au>

and click on QANTAS WALLABIES