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Between the lines

INTEGRITY | RESPECT | LEADERSHIP | COURAGE | PASSION



Vertical jump testing at 2015 NZRL National Performance Camp (Photosport)

2016 NZRL NATIONAL PERFORMANCE CAMP

Rotorua

Sunday, July 10

16s

Team Luke

Domanyc Fidow-Kele (Southern), Christopher Gabriel (Counties Manukau), Talavou Gavet (Akarana), Tyrone Hamilton (Counties Manukau), Kayal Iro (Akarana), Tyler Jahnke (Wellington), Nitoo Kairau (Counties Manukau), Asu Kepaoa (Akarana), Uenuku Malesala (Counties Manukau), Latima Malohi (Counties Manukau), Zinzan Martin (Southern), Israel Ogden (Counties Manukau), Joseph Onyeke (Akarana), Eteru Ropeti (Akarana), Tyler Slade (Akarana), Jensen Taumoepeau (Mid Central), Vito Tevaga (Akarana), Cameron Todd (Upper Central), Starford Toa (Akarana), Christian Tuipulotu (Counties Manukau)

Team Mannering

Lewis Afeaki Akarana), Zeniff Asa (Akarana), Aiden Aue-Sami (Akarana), Kienan De La Rambelje (Wellington), Taylor Fiu (Counties Manukau), Potusa Fuilala (Counties Manukau), Josh Ka (Counties Manukau), Matagi-Blade Kamuhemu (Akarana), Michael Lemafa (Counties Manukau), Jaydon Lyttle (Upper Central), Regan McClennan (Akarana), Josh Rawiri (Southern), Jordan Riki (Southern), Xavier Stevens (Counties Manukau), Jay Te Kani (Upper Central), Dezhia Telea (Counties Manukau), Matt Timoko (Akarana), Kakoi Togoiu (Counties Manukau), Xavier Tuigamala (Counties Manukau), Emanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard (Akarana)

Camp preps players for pressure

After two previous tastes of the National Performance Camp, new NZRL talent development manager Dave McMeeken is looking forward to his bigger role in the 2016 edition, starting Sunday.

The former Canterbury and Upper Central Zone development officer has been on the camp staff over the past two years, and is relishing his chance to lead the programme.

with a much better appreciation of the challenges that lie between them and their rugby league dreams.

Most NRL clubs will send scouts to the national 18s and 16s trials on Wednesday, all desperate to sign the next wave of stars to emerge from the NZ age-group ranks. While no fixtures have yet been scheduled for the respective national teams, selectors will be watching and

taking notes.

"This is another opportunity for them to knock on the door, but it's up to the boys whether they go through it or not," says McMeeken.

"Talent alone won't get them there. Only 5% will go on to NRL careers, so they need to understand



NZRL talent manager Dave McMeeken

"The camp has always been very professional, and it's really the first step along the pathway towards an NRL and NZ Kiwis career," says English-born McMeeken.

"It's exciting to identify the best 80 players in the country and bring them together to compete against each other.

"But the welfare messages are also a large part of the campaign, to prepare these boys to go on to bigger and better things."

The athletes will be tested in the gym, on the playing field and in the classroom, leaving Rotorua

what it takes to be one of those few.

"It's a daunting time, but also an exciting time for the boys. There's a lot of pressure, but it's our job to teach them how to handle that pressure."

Players will hear from NZ Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney on what he expects from professional players, NZRL wellbeing and education manager Joe Harawira will present on "state of mind" and drug testing, while careers advisors will encourage them to think about their options outside of rugby league.

Taurahere winning on & off field

NZRL may just have swayed Australian-based players back to the Kiwis programme at last week's Taurahere 18s gathering on the Gold Coast. Targeting NZ-eligible players across the Tasman, the four-day camp at was attended by 20 each from NSW (Team Tu) and Queensland (Team Toa). These were young men who had either moved to Australia in pursuit of NRL careers or had grown up there with Kiwi parentage, but being tempted by the Australian representative pathway.

Early indications are that the camp succeeded in recapturing the hearts and minds of some leaning towards their state teams.

"I thought the camp went exceptionally well," observed NZRL high performance general manager Brent Gemmell. "It sent the right message to the players about providing them with a New Zealand representative pathway, despite residing in Australia, and has definitely provided us with a greater insight into the talent eligible to pursue a NZ pathway in Australia.

"I know the Toa staff asked their boys – who were thinking of playing for Australia? – and four or five put up their hands. Then they asked who were now committed to a Kiwi pathway and all players put their hands up.

"Now we need these boys to go back out into their rugby league communities and pass that message to those that didn't seize this opportunity or were unfortunately not made available for selection." The players had a chance to hear from an excellent group of current and ex-Kiwis while in camp. Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney was a regular visitor, and current internationals Adam Blair and Jordan Kahu spoke to the group about their experiences coming through the NZ and Australian systems.

Tonight's guest speaker ...

Stephen Kearney

Kiwi #640

Player

1992-94 46 games for Western Suburbs
 1993-2004 43 tests for NZ Kiwis
 1995-98 79 games for Auckland Warriors
 1999-2004 139 games for Melbourne Storm
 2005 24 games for Hull
 Youngest Kiwis captain at 21
 1999 NRL Premiership with Storm
 NZRL Legend of League 2012

Coach

2008- 43 games (24-1-18) for NZ Kiwis
 2011/12 42 games (10-1-31) for Parramatta Eels
 Brisbane Broncos assistant coach
 Guided Kiwis to 2008 World Cup & 2010, 14 Four Nations titles



18s

Team Johnson

Dylan Clark (Upper Central), Morgan Harper (Upper Central), Utah Ioka (Akarana), Mitchell Jones Akarana), Samiuela Lauingoa (Counties Manukau), Montelle Le'afa-Sione (Wellington), Peteroni Lilomaiava (Counties Manukau), Javan Marsh (Akarana), Te Kahi Nathan (Northland), Javvier Pitovao (Akarana), Te Ratau Rameka (Upper Central), Sheldon Rogers (Upper Central), Roimia Roi (Counties Mankau), Aublix Tawha (Upper Central), Jonty Timoti (Akarana), Xavier Tutaki (Akarana), Sila Ulugia (Counties Manukau), Jahmarl Weir (Mid Central), Mikey Williams (Akarana), Rahiri Witehira (Akarana)

Team Bromwich

Rory Ferguson (Southern), Jonathan Fidow (Mid Central), Mark Graham (Akarana), Emerson Gray (Mid Central), Awatere Kiwara (Mid Central), Iloa Ma'afu Roberts (Akarana), Junior Malau Fiu (Counties Mankau), Kiani Marshall (Counties Manukau), Papa Mutu (Southern), Nathan Newton (Akarana), Raven Penu (Akarana), Preston Riki (Akarana), Elijah Sufia (Akarana), Fuiwa Takitaki (Counties Manukau), Siave Togoio (Counties Manukau), Caleb Uele (Akarana), Samuelu Vaegi (Akarana), Fine Vakautakakala (Akarana), Wesley Veikoso (Mid Central), Zae Wallace (Akarana)

Today

SUNDAY, JULY 10

When	What	Where
Noon	Players & staff arrive at camp	Keswick Camp, Rotorua
12.45pm	Lunch	KC dining hall
1.20pm	Formal welcome	KC auditorium
1.30pm	Room allocations	KC auditorium
1.35pm	Gear allocation	KC auditorium
1.45pm	Team photos	KC auditorium
2.30pm	Physical testing - Marrin Haggie	Rotorua Sportsdrome
6pm	Dinner	KC dining hall
6.30pm	CareerWise - Joe Harawira, Nigel Vagana & Jane Lowder	KC auditorium
7.30pm	State of Mind - Mike King & Joe Harawira	KC auditorium
8.30pm	Professional environment - NZ Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney	KC auditorium
9.30pm	Staff meeting	KC auditorium
10pm	Lights out	

NZ Rugby League would like to thank the following sponsors & partners for helping make this year's National Performance Camp possible ...

