



RYLEY BATT – Wheelchair Rugby

STATISTICS



Date of birth	22 May 1989
Sport	Wheelchair rugby
Classification	3.5
Disability	Limb deficiency
How acquired	Birth
Residence	Port Macquarie, NSW
Occupation	Athlete
First time competed for Aust	2003
Sport highlights	Gold at 2003 Oceania Zonals; 5 th at Athens 2004; 6 th at 2006 World Championships, 1 st at Oceania Zonals 2007
Paralympic Games experience	Athens 2004
Personal honours/awards	Best 2.5 in Australia 2003; Player and Rookie of the Year 2003 MVP 2004 2006 2007
Greatest sporting moment	Winning Oceanias 2007 and getting MVP
Heroes/role models	Chad Reed

BIOGRAPHY

In a few years Ryley Batt has become a key member of the Australian wheelchair rugby team. Born with a limb deficiency, Ryley started playing wheelchair rugby at the age of twelve and played in competition for the first time in 2002. The following year, Ryley represented his country in Japan. At the Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004, Ryley became the youngest ever wheelchair rugby Paralympian at just 15.

However, Athens was also a turning point for Ryley. His provisional classification of 2.5 – a “mid-pointer” was overturned and Ryley was classified at the Games as a “high pointer” – 3.5. This required Ryley to adapt to new responsibilities on the court and to lift his game to a new level, carrying almost half his team’s total point allocation whenever he takes the floor.

During his sporting career, Ryley has already achieved more than most. In 2003, his first year in the National Wheelchair Rugby League, he was recognised as the best 2.5 point player in Australia, Player of the Year and also Rookie of the Year. He was also the most valuable player in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

Ryley says that his greatest achievement in his life so far has been making the Australian team. As Beijing beckons, his dream of winning a Paralympic medal offers the challenge of an even greater achievement.