

**COUNTRY:** AUSTRALIA  
**TEAM NAME:** Australian Steelers  
**TEAM COLOURS:** Green & Gold  
**IWRF WORLD RANKING:** 2



INTERNATIONAL  
WHEELCHAIR  
**RUGBY**  
*Canada Cup*

**TEAM PROFILE:**

Wheelchair rugby appeared as a demonstration sport at the 1996 Summer Paralympics in Atlanta, and was granted full medal status at the 2000 Summer Paralympics in Sydney. It was in their home country that Australia asserted itself as one of the worlds best as they finished with a Silver medal. More than 10,000 fans watched the Gold Medal game live, in addition to an estimated eight million Australian TV viewers. At the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens they finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

In 2006 they placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the International Wheelchair Rugby Canada Cup and 6<sup>th</sup> at the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships in New Zealand. But their Gold medal win at the 2007 Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championships in their home country secured the team a berth at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing, and served notice that the country is back on top of the game. One of the players to watch at the Canada Cup 2008 is Ryley Batt wearing No. 3, who was named the Oceania Championship MVP. Others to watch include: Nazim Erdem (No. 2), Steve Porter (No. 12), and George Hucks (No. 1).

**TEAM MEMBERS:**

Name	Class	Number
ALLEN, Peter	0.5	10
SCOTT, Ryan	0.5	11
ERDEM, Nazim	0.5	2
BRAND, Shane	1.5	5
ALMAN, Bryce	2.0	8
CARR, Cameron	2.0	4
VITALE, Scott	2.0	6
SMITH, Greg	2.0	13
PORTER, Steve	2.5	12
BOXALL, Grant	2.5	7
HUCKS, George	3.0	1
BATT, Ryley	3.5	3

**COACHING & SUPPORT STAFF:**

Name	Title/Role
DUBBERLEY, Brad	Head Coach
DOIDGE, Rob	Assistant Coach
SHELTON, Noni	Mechanic
MANSELL, Angela	Personal Care Assistant
ELLWOOD, Kim	Team Manager