

SUDANESE STAR, THE NEXT DEMAR DEROZAN



By Zack McGeechan, Thomasi Maka, Jack Haydon, Quentin Lemoto, Will Maley, Harrison Henson and Peter Phillips.

Eighteen-year-old Sudanese born high school basketball player, Makuach Maluach, is the next Demar DeRozan. Averaging 14 points and 10 rebounds per game in the national tournament, Maluach is on his way to being Australia's next big thing. This isn't far off Demar DeRozan's 22 points and 7 rebounds in his senior year in high school. The future is looking bright for Maluach with offers from four scholarships in America.

Maluach moved to Australia from South Sudan in 2009. He lived in Armidale with his Aunty, Mum and 5 brothers until 2015. Maluach moved to Newington College in year 10, after being recruited by Coach Nottage. He moved straight into the firsts and was a huge success.

Since then Maluach has represented NSW and Australian 21's. Maluach quoted what it was like playing for Australia.

"It was definitely the highlight of my career, although there was a lot of pressure pulling on the green and gold," he said.

Maluach has also been a role model to his two younger brothers, Pop and Matuah. Maluach has helped his two brothers strive for greatness and all three brothers are now at Newington College.

“My older cousin inspired me and my brothers to play basketball and Makuach has pushed me to strive for greatness,” Pop said.

When asked who he believes he plays like Maluach said that he believes he plays like Toronto Raptors shooting guard Demar DeRozan. Both DeRozan and Maluach play a similar type of game, as they both play an attacking game and drive to the ring and can also shoot from range.

Coach Nottage has been a huge role model for Maluach from the beginning of his Newington career. He has mentored Maluach to be the best basketballer he possibly can be, although always reminds him, there is always room for improvement. Demar DeRozan also had a coach, like Nottage, that mentored him to be ranked one of the best high school players in 2008. Tony Thomas coached DeRozan at Compton high school and like Nottage, gave DeRozan the mentality to always improve his game.

With his great skills and positive attitude Makuach Maluach is sure to become an NBA player who will strive for greatness. He is an amazing player and his school community is behind him, hoping he enjoys his time in America at college and that he plays his heart out, every time he steps on that court. Makuach Maluach will be the next Demar DeRozan.



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