

Chasing Great- Richie McCaw

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richie_McCaw

Background: (born 31 December 1980) is a New Zealand former [rugby union](#) player. He [captained](#) the [national team](#), the All Blacks, in 110 out of his 148 test matches, and won two [Rugby World Cups](#). He is the [most capped test rugby player](#) of all time, and has won the [World Rugby player of the year](#) award a joint record three times.

McCaw predominantly played in the [openside flanker](#) position for the New Zealand, [Crusaders](#) and [Canterbury](#) teams, but also played as a blindside flanker and [no. 8](#). During McCaw's career, Canterbury won the NPC (later ITM Cup) five times, and the Crusaders won four [Super Rugby](#) titles. As well as two world cups, the All Blacks won seven [Tri-Nations](#) titles, completed three successful [Grand Slam tours](#) and won the [Bledisloe Cup](#) eight times.

He made his debut in 2001 for the Crusaders, and was selected for the All Blacks' 2001 end-of-year tour, despite having played only eight minutes of Super 12 rugby. His debut for New Zealand was against [Ireland](#), where he was awarded man-of-the-match.

McCaw became a regular selection for New Zealand, only missing a few games due to recurring [concussions](#). In 2004 he was appointed captain of the All Blacks, whom he led at the [2007 World Cup](#). After their elimination in the quarter-finals, his captaincy came under criticism, but he was retained and eventually led the team to consecutive world cup titles in [2011](#) and [2015](#), becoming one of only [twenty players](#) who have won two rugby union world cups.

McCaw was the first All Black to reach 100 caps, and the first rugby union player to win 100 tests. He is the [most-capped player in rugby union history](#) with 148 caps, having overtaken [Brian O'Driscoll's](#) record in 2015.