



# ***2017 SQUAD GUIDE***





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# THE 2017 CHIEFS



## FORWARDS

### PROPS

Siegfried Fisi'ihoi  
Mitchell Graham  
Kane Hames  
Sosefo Kautai  
Nepo Laulala  
Atunaisa Moli

### HOOKERS

Hikawera Elliot  
Nathan Harris  
Liam Polwart

### LOCKS

Michael Allardice  
Dominic Bird  
Brodie Retallick  
James Tucker

### LOOSE FORWARDS

Mitchell Brown  
Lachlan Boshier  
Sam Cane  
Mitchell Karpik  
Michael Leitch  
Liam Messam  
Tom Sanders  
Talení Seu

## BACKS

### HALFBACKS

Tawera Kerr-Barlow  
Finlay Christie  
Brad Weber

### FIRST FIVE-EIGHTHS

Aaron Cruden  
Stephen Donald  
Damian McKenzie

### MIDFIELD BACKS

Fa'ase'e (Johnny) Fa'auli  
Anton Lienert-Brown  
Tim Nanai-Williams  
Charlie Ngatai

### OUTSIDE BACKS

Solomon Alaimalo  
Glen Fisiiahi  
James Lowe  
Sam McNicol  
Toni Pulu  
Shaun Stevenson  
Chase Tiatia

## COACHES & MANAGEMENT

### HEAD COACH

Dave Rennie

### ASSISTANT COACHES

Andrew Strawbridge  
Kieran Keane  
Neil Barnes  
Carl Hoeft

### TEAM MANAGER

Stu Williams

### HIGH PERFORMANCE MANAGER

Chris Tindall

### STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Phil Healey  
Blair Mills

### DOCTOR

Zig Khouri

### PHYSIO

Kevin McQuoid

### SPORTS DIETICIAN

Dane Baker

### MASSEUR

Dale McClunie

### KIT MANAGER

Don Shergold

### ANALYST

Regan Hall

### MEDIA MANAGER

Nikita Hall

## DAVE RENNIE

POSITION Coach  
DATE OF BIRTH 22.11.63 in Upper Hutt  
COACHING ROLES Manawatu 2006-11  
New Zealand Under 20 2008-11  
IRANZ 2003-2007  
Hurricanes U23 2001  
Wellington 1999-02  
(NPC Champions 2000)

Dave Rennie has led the Chiefs to the Investec Super Rugby play-offs and two consecutive Investec Super Rugby titles in 2012 and 2013. Before joining the Chiefs he was the Head Coach of the Manawatu NPC side. As the New Zealand Under 20 Coach his side won three consecutive world championship titles from 2008-2010. Dave also coached Wellington from 1999-02 winning the NPC in 2000 played 59 games as a midfield back for the Wellington Lions from 1986.

## ANDREW STRAWBRIDGE

POSITION Assistant Coach  
DATE OF BIRTH 05.08.64 in Christchurch  
COACHING ROLES Blues Development 2010-11  
Chiefs Development 2002-03

Andrew Strawbridge joined the Chiefs top side as the Assistant Coach in 2011. He helped the Chiefs win their back-to-back title wins in 2012 and 2013.

Strawbridge played his rugby in the Waikato from 1983-1995. He won the NPC with the side in 1992 and the Ranfurly Shield in 1993.

Strawbridge was involved with the Chiefs in 2001 as a kicking coach until he became Assistant Coach at North Harbour in 2003. He assisted with the New Zealand Under 20 in 2008 and 2009 winning the World Championship titles in both years. He was the Auckland ITM Cup Assistant Coach and Blues Development Coach prior to re-joining the Chiefs and was also a New Zealand resource coach for eight years.

## NEIL BARNES

POSITION Assistant Coach  
DATE OF BIRTH 09.02.1958 Hawera  
COACHING ROLES Chiefs Assistant Coach (2015-)  
Canadian Forwards Coach (2009-15)  
Taranaki Assistant Coach (2003-2006, 2008)  
Hurricanes U23's Assistant Coach (2001)  
New Plymouth Old Boys (1993-1998, 2001)

Neil Barnes joined the Chiefs in 2016 directly from the 2015 Rugby World Cup where he was the Canadian forwards coach. He spent seven years with the Maple Leafs. Barnes was the assistant coach for the Taranaki provincial side and the Hurricanes Colts assistant coach with Dave Rennie. The dairy farmer has won seven club rugby titles with New Plymouth Old Boys. He also represented Taranaki for a few matches as lock.

## KIERAN KEANE

POSITION Assistant Coach  
DATE OF BIRTH 09.02.1953 Christchurch  
COACHING ROLES Chiefs Assistant Coach (2015-)  
Tasman Makos ITM Cup (2009 - 2015)  
Highlanders Assistant Coach (2011-2012)  
Hawke's Bay (2002-2004)  
Marlborough (1998-2001)  
New Zealand U16's/U17'S (1995-2001)

Kieran Keane spent seven seasons with the Tasman Makos ITM Cup side. He led them to an ITM Cup Championship victory and promotion into the Premiership in 2013 and took the side to the ITM Cup Premiership finals in 2014 and semi-finals in 2015.

Keane has already had a taste of Super Rugby, having been the Assistant Coach of the Highlanders under Jamie Joseph. He coached the New Zealand U16 and U17 age grade sides for seven years and the Marlborough and Hawkes Bay NPC sides. Keane played six matches for the All Blacks in 1979 and also represented Canterbury as first five and second five-eighth for 10 seasons and played for New Zealand Universities.

## MITCHELL GRAHAM

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.87m, 122kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 30.1.91

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 25:  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2015 v Crusaders in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Taranaki  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 35  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v Manawatu (Canterbury) in Christchurch

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

A really dependable loosehead prop, Mitch's set piece is strong and he will be looking to build on an impressive 2016 Investec Super Rugby season.

## NEPO LAULALA

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.84m, 116kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 6.11.91 in Samoa

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 33  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2013 v Chiefs in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Canterbury  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 44  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2011v North Otago in Christchurch

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TEST CAPS: 4  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2015 v Samoa in Apia

### THE CHIEFS SAY

An exciting prospect, having made his All Blacks debut in 2015. Nepo's season abruptly ended in early 2016. We look forward to seeing him fulfil his potential in the front row in 2017.

## KANE HAMES

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.80m, 113kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 28.8.88

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 20  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2014 v Blues (Highlanders) in Dunedin

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PROVINCE: Tasman  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 26  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v Otago (Bay of Plenty) in Dunedin

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TEST CAPS: 1  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2016 v Australia in Sydney

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Coming into the Chiefs squad as an injury replacement in 2016, Hames had a meteoric rise, going on to win his first All Blacks cap against Australia in August. Kane is excited to show his quality again in 2017.

## ATUNAISA MOLI

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.88m, 124kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 12.6.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 10  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Kings in Port Elizabeth

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 13  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Tasman in Hamilton

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

The New Zealand U20 2015 world championship-winning captain gained crucial experience in his debut Super Rugby season. He will look to keep improving in 2017 and bring a lot of competition for places in the front row.

## SIEGFRIED FISI'IHOI

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.84m, 125kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 8.6.87

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 10  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 0  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Force in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 28  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Counties Manukau in Whakatane

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Siegfried is a very strong and mobile prop who is explosive around the park and will be looking to cement and grow his core skills and secure his place in the squad.

## HIKAWERA ELLIOT

POSITION: Hooker  
PHYSICAL: 1.86m, 115kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 22.12.86

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 115  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 40 (8t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2008 v Waratahs (Hurricanes) in Sydney

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PROVINCE: Counties Manukau  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 106  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 65 (13t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2005 v Nelson Bays (Hawke's Bay) in Napier

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TEST CAPS: 4  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2010 v Scotland in Edinburgh

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Clocking up his 100th appearance for the Chiefs in 2016, Hika brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the squad.

## SOSEFO KAUTAI

POSITION: Prop  
PHYSICAL: 1.89m, 133kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.8.96

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 11  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2016 v King Country in Matamata

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

A new addition to the forward pack for 2017, Sosefo had an impressive season with Waikato Rugby in the Mitre 10 Cup. He is excited to learn and develop in his debut Super Rugby season.

## NATHAN HARRIS

POSITION: Hooker  
PHYSICAL: 1.86m, 110kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 8.3.92 in Tauranga

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 38  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 15 (3t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2014 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 26  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Otago in Rotorua

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TEST CAPS: 4  
TEST POINTS: 10 (2t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2014 v Argentina in La Plina

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Nathan is a hooker with immense quality. With injury bringing his 2016 season to an abrupt end, he will be looking forward to returning to play in 2017 and delivering the high performances we've become used to.

## LIAM POLWART

POSITION: Hooker  
PHYSICAL: 1.85m, 107kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 2.4.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 6  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2016 v Taranaki in Tauranga

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Progressing through the Chiefs Development Programme, Bay of Plenty hooker Liam Polwart enters his first Super Rugby season with the Chiefs. Liam represented the New Zealand u20 team in 2015 and is excited to further develop and impress in Super Rugby.

## DOMINIC BIRD

POSITION: Lock  
PHYSICAL: 2.06m, 112kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 9.4.91 in Waipukurau

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 41  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2013 v Blues in Auckland

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PROVINCE: Canterbury  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 42  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2011 v Manawatu in Christchurch

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TEST CAPS: 2  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2013 v Japan in Tokyo

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Off the back of an impressive first season at the Chiefs, Dominic has taken that form into the Mitre 10 Cup with Canterbury. We look forward to seeing the promising lock in action again for the Chiefs in 2017.

## MICHAEL ALLARDICE

POSITION: Lock  
PHYSICAL: 2.00m, 112kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 19.10.91

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 17:  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 0  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2015 v Highlanders in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Hawke's Bay  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 37  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Auckland (Canterbury) in Christchurch

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Following a knee injury which kept Michael out of the latter stages of 2016, Michael will look to come back stronger and solidify his place in the squad in 2017.

## BRODIE RETALLICK

POSITION: Lock  
PHYSICAL: 2.04m, 120kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 31.5.91 in Rangiora

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 71  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 25 (5t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2012 v Highlanders in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Hawke's Bay  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 12  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Auckland in Auckland

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TEST CAPS: 57  
TEST POINTS: 10 (2t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2012 v Ireland in Auckland

## THE CHIEFS SAY

A world class player who has the heart of a lion and the skill set to support it. Retallick will be a key feature in the Chiefs in 2017.

## JAMES TUCKER

POSITION: Lock  
PHYSICAL: 1.97m, 112kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 5.8.94

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 4  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 0  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Kings in Port Elizabeth

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 12  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Tasman in Hamilton

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

James comes in as a lock with the ability to play 6. He is a good line out exponent and his work in contact is strong.

## LACHLAN BOSHIER

POSITION: Loose Forward  
PHYSICAL: 1.91m, 104kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.11.94

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 7  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 10 (2t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Sharks (Chiefs) at New Plymouth

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PROVINCE: Taranaki  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 16  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Canterbury at New Plymouth

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Called in as an injury replacement player in 2016, Lachlan performed well and will be excited to show his potential in 2017.

## MITCHELL BROWN

POSITION: Lock/Blindside Flanker  
PHYSICAL: 1.94m, 110kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 15.8.93

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 2  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 0  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Crusaders (Chiefs) at Suva

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PROVINCE: Taranaki  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 27  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v King Country at Inglewood

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Impressive performances as an injury replacement player earned Mitchell a spot in the 2017 squad. He will look forward to building on that in 2017 and develop further on his good performances.

## SAM CANE

POSITION: Loose forward  
PHYSICAL: 1.89m, 106kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 13.1.92 in Rotorua

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 82  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 55 (11t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2011 v Lions in Johannesburg

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PROVINCE: Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 19  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 25 (5t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Auckland in Mt Maunganui

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TEST CAPS: 37  
TEST POINTS: 55 (11t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2012 v Ireland in Christchurch

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Sam is a true professional in every sense of the word. He thrived as co-captain of the team in 2016 and we look forward to seeing him lead across the field in 2017.



## MITCHELL KARPIK

POSITION: Flanker  
PHYSICAL: 1.85m, 101kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 2.6.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Auckland  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 11  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Taranaki in Auckland

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Injury kept Mitchell out of the 2016 Super Rugby season, so he'll be looking to create a big impact in 2017. A player with a load of potential.

## LIAM MESSAM

POSITION: Loose forward  
PHYSICAL: 1.90m, 109kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 25.3.84

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 146  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 150 (30t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2006 v Sharks in Durban

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 85  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 148 (29t, 1d)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2003 v Italy in Hamilton

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TEST CAPS: 43  
TEST POINTS: 30 (6t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2008 v Scotland in Edinburgh

## THE CHIEFS SAY

A born leader with 146 caps to his name for the Chiefs, Liam will be crucial in the Chiefs environment for 2017 and we are thrilled to have him back.

## MICHAEL LEITCH

POSITION: Loose forward  
PHYSICAL: 1.88m, 105kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 7.10.88

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 23  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 30 (6t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2015 v Stormers in Cape Town

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OVERSEAS PLAYER  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 0  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: N/A  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: N/A

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TEST CAPS: 47 (Japan)  
TEST POINTS: 60 (12t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2008 v USA

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Michael has performed well in his two seasons with the Chiefs. He is an asset in the squad and we are excited to have him back for 2017.

## TOM SANDERS

POSITION: Flanker  
PHYSICAL: 1.90m, 108kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 5.2.94

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 13  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 15 (3t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Canterbury  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 23  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 25 (5t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Auckland in Christchurch

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Tom is a rugged, hard nose loose forward. He enters his second season with the Chiefs and looks to build on a highly impressive debut season.

## TALENI SEU

POSITION: Lock / Loose forward  
PHYSICAL: 2.02m, 109kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 20.12.93

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 17  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 10 (2t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Auckland  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 15  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Southland in Invercargill

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

An exciting prospect with strong aerial skills. Taleni is an elusive, fast loose forward, who performed extremely well in his debut Super Rugby season.

## TAWERA KERR-BARLOW

POSITION: Halfback  
PHYSICAL: 1.87m, 89kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 15.8.90

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 67  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 35 (7t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2011 v Brumbies

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 43  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2009 v Bay of Plenty

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TEST CAPS: 24  
TEST POINTS: 10 (2t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2012 v Scotland in Edinburgh

## THE CHIEFS SAY

With an array of All Blacks experience, Tawera has become a very influential player in the Chiefs environment and brings a unique skill set to the halfback role.

## FINLAY CHRISTIE

POSITION: Halfback  
PHYSICAL: 1.8m, 80kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 19.09.94

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Tasman  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 11  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2016 v Waikato at Blenheim

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Off the back of an impressive debut Mitre 10 Cup season with Tasman, Finlay will look to further his skills in Super Rugby at the Chiefs. Originally from Scotland, Finlay moved to Pukekohe aged seven and represented Counties Manukau at the National u19's in 2014.

## BRAD WEBER

POSITION: Halfback  
PHYSICAL: 1.72m, 75kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 17.1.91 in Napier

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 41  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 30 (6t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2014 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Hawke's Bay  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 44  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 72 (14t, 1c)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Southland (Otago) in Balclutha

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TEST CAPS: 1  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2015 v Samoa in Apia

## THE CHIEFS SAY

A season of consistency in 2016 for the Chiefs, Brad is looking to continue to shine in the exciting Chiefs backline.

## AARON CRUDEN

POSITION: First five-eighth  
PHYSICAL: 1.78m, 80kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 8.1.89 in Palmerston North

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 98  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 750 (16t, 110c, 150p)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2010 v Blues (Hurricanes) in Albany

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PROVINCE: Manawatu  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 33  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 277 (8t, 48c, 46p, 1d)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2008 v Hawke's Bay in Palmerston North

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TEST CAPS: 43  
TEST POINTS: 308 (5t, 56c, 56p, 1d)  
TEST DEBUT: 2010 v Ireland in New Plymouth

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Aaron showed real maturity and leadership on and off the field in 2016, and was instrumental in his role as co-captain. His consistent performances earned him the accolade of Coaches Player of the Year.

## DAMIAN MCKENZIE

POSITION: First five-eighth/ Fullback  
PHYSICAL: 1.75m, 80kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 20.4.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 33:  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 240 (10t, 50c, 30p)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2015 v Blues in Albany

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 24  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 249 (5t, 43c, 45p, 1d)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Wellington in Wellington

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TEST CAPS: 1  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2016 v Argentina in Buenos Aires

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Damian is an exciting player with the ability to create something out of nothing. 2016 was an instrumental year for him, making his All Black debut and we can't wait to see him grow on that in 2017.

## STEPHEN DONALD

POSITION: First five-eighth  
PHYSICAL: 1.90m, 96kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 3.12.83

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 90  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 859 (19t, 151c, 153p, 1d)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2005 v Waratahs in Sydney

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 81  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 658 (32t, 123c, 83p, 1d)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2002 v Auckland (Counties Manukau) in Pukekohe

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TEST CAPS: 23  
TEST POINTS: 98 (1t, 15c, 21p)  
TEST DEBUT: 2008 v England in Auckland

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Stephen is a seasoned campaigner who brings a wealth of experience to the team and a hunger to perform well.

## FA'ASE'E (JOHNNY) FA'AULI

POSITION: Midfield Back  
PHYSICAL: 1.80m, 103kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 13.9.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Taranaki  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 10  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2016 v Bay of Plenty at Tauranga

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

A new face in the backline for 2017, Johnny enters the Chiefs environment off the back of an impressive season with Taranaki in the Mitre 10 Cup.

## ANTON LIENERT-BROWN

POSITION: Second five-eighth  
PHYSICAL: 1.85m, 94kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 15.4.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 23:  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 0  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2014 v Bulls in Pretoria

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 19  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Wellington in Wellington

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TEST CAPS: 6  
TEST POINTS: 10 (2t)  
TEST DEBUT: 2016 v Australia in Wellington

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Anton went from strength to strength in 2016. An impressive Super Rugby season was followed by numerous starts in the All Blacks midfield, performing admirably and with maturity beyond his years.

## CHARLIE NGATAI

POSITION: Midfield back  
PHYSICAL: 1.86m, 100kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 17.8.90 in Gisborne

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 51  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 85 (17t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2011 v Chiefs (Hurricanes) in Wellington

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PROVINCE: Taranaki  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 64  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 103 (20t, 1p)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2008 v Wanganui (Poverty Bay) in Wanganui

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TEST CAPS: 1  
TEST POINTS: 0  
TEST DEBUT: 2015 v Samoa in Apia

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Charlie was very impressive in 2016 before concussion kept him sidelined for the rest of the season. We are looking forward to seeing him back in 2017 and the quality he brings to the team.

## TIM NANAI-WILLIAMS

POSITION: Fullback / Midfield back  
PHYSICAL: 1.82m, 87kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 12.6.89

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 77  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 136 (25t, 1c, 3p)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2010 v Sharks in Durban

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PROVINCE: Counties Manukau  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 55  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 262 (19t, 31c, 35p)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2008 v Northland in Whangarei

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TEST CAPS: 5  
TEST POINTS: 7 (1t, 1c)  
TEST DEBUT: 2015 v New Zealand (Samoa) in Apia

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Back at the Chiefs after great experience playing in Japan and with Samoa at the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Tim's versatility in the backline gives us exciting options for 2017.

## SOLOMON ALAIMALO

POSITION: Fullback  
PHYSICAL: 1.96m, 99kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 27.12.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Northland  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 10  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2016 v Manawatu (Northland) in Whangarei

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

### THE CHIEFS SAY

Solomon is a new addition to the Chiefs for 2017. One of the finds of the 2017 Mitre 10 Cup season, we are excited to see Solomon develop well in the Chiefs environment.

## GLEN FISIIAHI

POSITION: Wing  
PHYSICAL: 1.84m, 92kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 2.12.90

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 3  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 5 (1t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Lions in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Counties Manukau  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 0  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: N/A  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: N/A

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

With injury keeping Glen out of most of 2016, we look forward to seeing the exciting aspects he will add to the team with his pace and skill set.

## SAM MCNICOL

POSITION: Wing  
PHYSICAL: 1.85m, 94kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 6.10.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 12  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 10 (2t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2015 v Chiefs (Hurricanes) in New Plymouth

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PROVINCE: Hawke's Bay  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 4  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Bay of Plenty (Wellington) in Mt Maunganui

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Sam showed great potential in his debut Super Rugby season. He is a quick, heady outside back with a booming left foot.

## JAMES LOWE

POSITION: Wing  
PHYSICAL: 1.87m, 104kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 8.7.92 in Nelson

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 36:  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 70 (14t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2014 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Tasman  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 35  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 85 (17t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Canterbury in Nelson

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

James is an exciting winger, with enormous potential. After consistent and versatile performances in 2016, James will look to perform to high standards again in 2017.

## TONI PULU

POSITION: Wing  
PHYSICAL: 1.84m, 93kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 28.11.89

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 12  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 25 (5t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Force in Hamilton

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PROVINCE: Counties Manukau  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 44  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 50 (10t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Southland in Pukekohe

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Toni performed admirably in his debut season with the Chiefs and has gone on to play consistently well in the Mitre 10 Cup with Counties Manukau. His speed is a key asset in the backline.

## SHAUN STEVENSON

POSITION: Fullback  
PHYSICAL: 1.90m, 90kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 14.11.96

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 6  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 10 (2t)  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: 2016 v Crusaders in Christchurch

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PROVINCE: Waikato  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 11  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Tasman in Hamilton

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Shaun had a good debut Super Rugby season and looks forward to pushing on in 2017. A highly skilled player with a tactical awareness that belies his age.

## CHASE TIATIA

POSITION: Utility Back  
PHYSICAL: 1.81m, 93kg  
DATE OF BIRTH: 14.10.95

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SUPER RUGBY GAMES: 0  
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: N/A  
SUPER RUGBY DEBUT: N/A

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PROVINCE: Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 16  
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Northland (Wellington) in Whangarei

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TEST CAPS: 0  
TEST POINTS: N/A  
TEST DEBUT: N/A

## THE CHIEFS SAY

Chase is highly competitive and looks to impose himself on the game at every opportunity and will be looking forward to making the most of Super Rugby in 2017.

# CHIEFS IN 2016

## FINISHED 6TH AFTER ROUND ROBIN

P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	B3T	B7	PTS
15	11	-	4	491	341	150	6	1	51

## PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinal: Chiefs 60 Stormers 21, Saturday 23 July at Newlands, Cape Town

Semifinal: Hurricanes 25 Chiefs 9, Saturday 30 July at Westpac Stadium, Wellington

*Photos: Getty Images*



