



ALL SAINTS'
COLLEGE

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Kieran Longbottom (2002)

Kieran Longbottom commits to Western Force for Indo Pacific Rugby Championship.

[Nick Taylor](#) | The West Australian
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Longbottom was the first player to graduate from WA ranks to Super Rugby. Picture: Lincoln Baker

History making Western Force prop Kieran Longbottom is heading back to where it all started.

The WA-born front rower is the latest player to sign for the new Force to play in mining billionaire Andrew Forrest's Indo Pacific Rugby Championship and the National Rugby Championship.

Longbottom entered Force folklore on May 3, 2008 against the Chiefs at Subiaco when he became the first West Australian to go through local rugby ranks and make his Super Rugby debut.

Six years later, after 57 appearances, he moved to English powerhouse club Saracens for two seasons. He then had a year at Sale before moving back to Saracens this season.

The 118kg tighthead, who held the Force bench press record of 175kg during his time at the club, said he was looking forward to making his return.

"I'm incredibly excited to be coming home to Western Australia to play in front of the Sea of Blue again," Longbottom said.

"Perth and the Western Force is my home, and everyone in the Sea of Blue is my extended family.

"I can't wait to pull the Force jersey back on and be part of this great club again."

Longbottom started playing rugby as a 13-year-old at All Saints College in Bull Creek, joined Rockingham under-14s and progressed through junior grades, WA representative sides, the Force academy, Perth Gold, Perth Spirit and ultimately Super Rugby.

He qualifies for England through his late maternal grandmother, something he did not realise until he announced the move to Saracens.



The prop has battled injuries for the past two years. Picture: Getty Images

At the same time he discovered he had come onto the Wallabies radar but the overseas deal had been struck.

However, his career in England was cruelled by injury.

He suffered an unusual foot injury in just his fourth game for Saracens and needed two operations, spent six months in a protective boot.

The foot was so damaged he developed a strange walking style and literally had to learn how to run again.

He finally played 20 games for the Sharks, making his first appearance after 714 days on the sidelines.

Longbottom joins former Springbok Peter Grant and US international and outside back Marcel Brache who have re-signed for the new Force. More announcements are expected.