

Johnathan Thurston

Former Professional Rugby League Footballer

Initially overlooked as a talented teenager being deemed “too small”, he overcame that hurdle with a strong belief in his own ability, a humility that endeared himself to the fans and teammates, a strong skills set, and a work-rate that gave him the greatest chance of attaining success.

Johnathan Thurston was one of Australian rugby league’s greatest players in a glittering career which saw him dominate at state, national and international levels.

Across his remarkable career on the field, Johnathan collected a substantial number of wins and awards for his athletic ability. In 2019, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, and in 2023, was inducted into Sport Australia’s Hall of Fame.

Since retiring, Johnathan continues to inspire young Australians to strive for success across all areas of their lives, including in sport, education and in their professional careers. He founded the Johnathan Thurston Academy (JTAcademy), where he currently works as the Managing Director, to create stronger employment initiatives and training programs. With high quality skill-based programs, the Academy has been making a positive impact on the future of young Australians.

Johnathan is passionate about guiding youths and disadvantaged communities to find the way forward. He draws on his sincere passion for the Australian youth and his Indigenous culture to connect with audiences, emphasising a culture of community, confidence and a greater sense of self-identity.



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