

MILLION DOLLAR MAN

Teenage league sensation signs super-sized contract.

He's been tipped as "the next big thing" in rugby league, and compared to the likes of David Peachey and Laurie Daley. Melbourne Storm's Greg Inglis has a huge future ahead of him, and he now has a huge contract to match.

Late last year, 18-year-old Greg signed a deal with Melbourne worth more than \$1 million – one of the most lucrative contracts ever offered to a rookie.

The deal will see the star player extend his contract with the Storm until the end of the 2009 season, an amazing offer for someone who has played only 13 first grade games.

But even during this handful of appearances, Greg has produced some awe-inspiring performances, including a two-try haul against the Bulldogs in Round 17 of last year's competition, which saw him named Man of the Match.

The teenage sensation also won the 2005 *Courier Mail* Player of the Year award for his performance in the Queensland Cup, which earned him selection in the Junior Kangaroos squad.

Greg's good fortune over the past few months is in stark contrast to the tragedy that marred his debut year in the NRL.

Greg lost his step-sister to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and his uncle in a fatal car crash in 2005 – both shattering events that shook the young player to the core.

But with the support of his club and his teammates, Greg was able to overcome his grief and play on. This support is one of the reasons for Greg's decision to remain with the Storm for the next three seasons.

"It's a pretty good deal," Greg admits modestly. "It's up to me now to prove that I'm worth it.

"I've learned a lot but there's still a lot more I need to learn. I'm only young and I'm looking forward to getting better and stronger as a player."

Greg made his debut as a fullback in 2005, replacing an injured Billy Slater, but this year will see Greg in the centres following the departure of Steven Bell who has moved to Manly.

Greg's goal in 2006 is to remain consistent throughout the season, to remain injury free and to keep his spot in the first grade. If last season is anything to go by, you can expect some exciting things from this rising star.



Flying high: On-field and off, Greg has a huge season ahead.

ACTIVITY 1: READING FOR MEANING

Circle the correct answer:

1. What is the main idea of this article?
 - a. Greg Inglis plays rugby league like David Peachey.
 - b. Greg Inglis is a great athlete.
 - c. Talented teenager Greg Inglis has landed a \$1 million contract with Melbourne Storm.
2. In this article, "super-sized contract" means
 - a. the contract was written on very large paper
 - b. there was a lot of money involved in the contract
 - c. the contract was for second rowers only

True or false?

3. The \$1 million contract offered to Greg Inglis is one of the largest ever offered to a rookie.

TRUE

FALSE

4. Inglis will play with Melbourne Storm until 2011.

TRUE

FALSE

5. Inglis won the *Courier Mail* Player of the Year Award in 2005.

TRUE

FALSE

6. In what order did these things happen? Write the numbers 1 to 3 next to each sentence.

_____ Greg Inglis wants to have a consistent and injury-free season in 2006.

_____ Greg Inglis made his debut as a fullback at the start of the 2005 season.

_____ Greg Inglis scored two tries against the Bulldogs in Round 17, 2005.





ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the statements from the article in the boxes below.

WORD	MEANING
Inglis is a teenage league sensation.	
Inglis has been tipped as "the next big thing" in rugby league.	
Inglis has only played a handful of matches.	
Inglis made his debut as fullback.	
One of Greg's goals for 2006 is to remain consistent throughout the season.	

ACTIVITY 3: COMPOUND WORDS

Circle the compound words in the list below.

someone overcome teammates
 support remain fullback
 replacing throughout anything





ACTIVITY 4: WRITING AN INTERVIEW

Imagine that you are a *Deadly Vibe* reporter interviewing Greg Inglis about his new contract with Melbourne Storm.

Using the information from the article and your own ideas, write five questions that you will ask Greg. Then write what you think he would answer.

Interviewer:

Greg Inglis:

Interviewer:

Greg Inglis:

Interviewer:

Greg Inglis:

Interviewer:

Greg Inglis:

Interviewer:

Greg Inglis:

HINTS:

- Ask open-ended questions (ones that need more than a yes or no answer)
- Ask interesting questions that give readers more insight into what the contract means for Greg.