

Aliir Aliir

By Felix Keane

Aliir Aliir was born on the 5th of September 1994. He is a professional AFL player for the Sydney Swans.

Aliir was born in a refugee camp in Kenya, in a town called Kakuma. He grew up in a refugee camp with his younger brother and his two mothers. His dad died when Aliir was only seven years old due to a car accident coming back from the army to the refugee camp to see his family.

When Aliir Aliir was a kid, he used to play with a soccer ball made out of balloons and old clothes. He said that they had to keep spare balloons in case they popped. Since it was so hot where he lived, they sometimes put mattresses outside their homes to sleep on at night.

In 2002 his family decided to come to Australia because of a civil war that was going on in Kenya. He moved to Brisbane to live with his uncle, while the rest of his family moved to live in WA, to reunite with extended family.

As a 14-year-old, he started school at Kedron State High School in Brisbane and in his second week he started playing football at school, eventually joining a club called Aspley Hornets Football Club. On his first match for the club, the coach put him in ruck and also played him as a defender. His coach told him to watch a couple of AFL games to see what it was like.

A few years later he got invited to play with the Under 16s championships in Sydney for Queensland. Whilst doing this he was trying to come in touch with a long-lost sister.

His challenge was being rejected in the 2012 AFL draft. He then relocated to Perth in Western Australia to live with his family. He then started playing for East Fremantle Football Club in the WAFL.

“I know people think some guys are just born with natural ability,” he says. “But you’ve got to work hard, and you have to commit. Do that, and anything is possible.” He said in one of his interviews.

One year later Aliir Aliir got drafted in the 2013 AFL draft. He was pick 44 and is now playing for the Sydney swans as a key defender.

Bibliography

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