Australian women’s rugby sevens team visit Loreto Normanhurst before Amsterdam showdown

Emma Carrigan, 12, Rachel Crothers, 19, Lucy Illek, 12, Brooke Anderson, 18, and Claudia Bell, 16, at Loreto Normanhurst. Picture: ADAM WARD

Source: News Limited

AUSTRALIA’S women’s sevens team were put through their paces at Loreto Normanhurst last week, training before an enthusiastic audience of schoolgirls.
The side play at a tournament in Amsterdam this weekend - if they beat New Zealand, a world championship beckons.

Among the onlookers on Friday was Loreto's own rugby star, 16-year-old Claudia Bell.

"We have about 20-30 keen players here," she said.

"I just love the feeling of being on the run with the ball and just the whole camaraderie of playing a team sport."

Training on Loreto Normanhurst oval. Picture: ADAM WARD
Source: News Limited
Action from the training session. Picture: ADAM WARD
Source: News Limited
Claudia is the youngest player in the Macquarie University sevens team and a member of the NSW under-16 squad. She began playing rugby league as an eight-year-old in her hometown of Gravesend, near Moree, switching to rugby when she turned 11.

“I come from a big rugby family, so I sort of grew up with it,” Claudia said.

Eighteen-year-old Australian utility player Brooke Anderson said it was exciting to see so many girls interested in the sport. Watch the sevens tournament live from 8pm on Friday at wsws.irb.com.
The national women's rugby sevens team take a short break from an intense training session.

Picture: ADAM WARD
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