



## INFORMATION PAGE

Week of May 14th, 2011

### 1 The Picture

Once again, there are a number of games from around the region that you can watch through the marvel of technology this weekend. USA College matches (see below) and in the next stage of the NACRA Men's XVS Cayman Islands travels to Mexico to see who will advance to meet Bermuda and the Bahamas in the North Division.

The picture above is of Mexico playing Cayman in the final of the 2008 Caribbean U19 Championships. We'll see some of these young stars playing for their senior sides this weekend in Mexico. Cayman won the junior match in 2008, but Mexico's senior side defeated Cayman Islands that year, so this match should present a thrilling rematch for players from each side, young and old. You can see it on-line by following the links at [www.mexrugby.com](http://www.mexrugby.com).

### 2 USA RUGBY COLLEGE PREMIER DIVISION SEMIFINALS KICKOFF SATURDAY IN GLENDALE

BOULDER, Colo. – Rugby and college sports fans everywhere are in for a treat on Saturday May 14, when the College Premier Division (CPD) semifinals kickoff at Infinity Park in Glendale, Colo. Cal will take on Utah and BYU will play Arkansas State. Both games will be broadcast live on [ESPN3.com](http://ESPN3.com) and on same day tape delay on ESPNU.

Cal v. Utah kicks off at 8 p.m. ET and BYU v. Arkansas State gets underway at 10 p.m. ET. The ESPNU same-day tape delay of these games will begin at 10:30 p.m. and midnight ET, respectively. Tickets to the game can be purchased at <http://www.glendalerugby.com/tickets-and-travel>.

This past weekend in the CPD Quarterfinals, Cal hosted Life University and put the visiting side away by 33 points to advance to the semis. Thomas Rooke, Cal's openside flanker got a hat trick in the encounter and his flyhalf, James Bailes, put on a kicking clinic, scoring 13 points with the boot. Rooke and Bailes combined for 28 points and Cal's hard-charging outside center, Seamus Kelly, and replacement sophomore inside center, Jared Braun, had a try apiece to account for the balance of Cal's points.

Fans can count on watching surgical precision and fast-paced rugby on Saturday when Cal plays a very resolute Utah side in Glendale.

Utah had a tall order on Sunday, traveling to West Point to play in front of an enthusiastic Army home crowd still hoarse from a fantastic win over Navy the week prior. However, Utah unleashed on the hosts late in the game, scoring 17 points in

the final ten minutes to secure their postseason lives.

Ute lock Maika Hafoka ignited the scoring rampage and Sione Lauti and Thretton Palamo followed suit. Utah can be a devastating attacking power if they are firing on all cylinders and they had better be against a very strong and experienced Cal team on Saturday.

Utah's only loss of the season was at the hands of fellow semifinalists and in-state rivals BYU who put in a dominant display over Navy in the quarterfinal in Provo on Saturday.

BYU emerged from the regular season without having had a strong challenge, their closest game all season was an 18-point victory over Utah in the season opener. From that point on, like Cal, BYU has been steamrolling their way to the postseason. The postseason, thus far, has been very promising for the Cougars as they hosted Navy Saturday in the CPD Quarterfinals.

BYU's fullback, Andrew Harrison, opened his team's account and before 30 minutes had elapsed, the Cougars had 29 points on the board to Navy's five. It was one-way traffic in the second half though and BYU racked up a whopping 64 points in the encounter with a final score of 64-12.

Apensia Malani, BYU's mobile openside, must have decided that Saturday was his day to get some CPD points to his name and scored a hat trick against the Midshipmen. BYU will look to overcome their next obstacle in the postseason: the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

Arkansas State has overcome some strong competition at home in the form of Life University during the regular season and St. Mary's in the CPD Quarterfinals. When they face BYU, it will be their strongest competition so far.

Aside from a try in the fourth minute, ASU wasn't able to breach St. Mary's tryline in the first half, but flyhalf Patrick Sullivan kept his team in the hunt with his boot.

St. Mary's had two first half tries and at halftime it was a one-point ball game. Ten minutes into the second half though, Red Wolves powerful eight man Shaun Potgieter got his side going. Arkansas State largely held St. Mary's off and gave themselves some breathing room late in the game.

St. Mary's scored only one less try than ASU, a testament to how Sullivan's ability to add the extras and nail penalty kicks buoyed his team. The clash with BYU this Saturday will be a great battle to watch, especially in the battle of the boot. BYU's halfback, Shaun Davies, has been as precise as any kicker in the CPD and has had plenty of practice kicking conversions this season.

The winning teams from the semifinals will advance to the first ever College Premier Division National Championship. The Championship game will take place at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah on May 21. Kickoff for that game is slated for 7:05 p.m. MT.

CPD Championship game coverage of the CPD Championship on [ESPN3.com](https://www.espn.com) will start at 7 p.m. MT on May 21 from Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah. The game will air on ESPNU at 10 a.m. ET on Sunday May 22.

**Further Information:**

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### 3 **2011 Churchill Cup Countdown Begins**

The countdown to the 2011 Churchill Cup has officially begun, with the tournament kicking-off in exactly a month today when newcomers Italy A take on Canada in the opening game on June 4.

Current title holders England Saxons will also make their start to the competition on June 4 at Franklin's Gardens, facing fellow Churchill Cup founders USA in the second game of the opening weekend.

Now in its ninth year, the Churchill Cup returns to England from its traditional North American base for the first time since 2007.

With the Rugby World Cup starting in September, this year's Churchill Cup provides an ideal pre-tournament team warm up opportunity for the participants to knock on the selectors' door to represent their country in New Zealand.

RFU Head of Elite Player Development and England Saxons Head Coach Stuart Lancaster explained: "It's a crucial competition for England Saxons, especially in a World Cup year as it gives Martin Johnson and the other coaches a look at some players who might force their way into the squad for New Zealand. We will look forward to meeting the USA again and with Tonga joining it will be a great opportunity for the players to benchmark themselves against teams who will be preparing for and competing in the World Cup.

"The home support is going to be crucial through the tournament and in helping us to retain the trophy. The competition will take place over some fantastic venues, including Sixway's Stadium, Kingholm and Franklin's Gardens, so it's a perfect opportunity for rugby supporters to come watch some International action in the domestic off-season."

Paul Vaughan, the RFU's Business Operations Director and a member of the Churchill Cup Executive, said: "With no summer tour for England this June is a great opportunity to for rugby fans to see six quality international teams on their doorstep. With England playing Wales at Twickenham in an Investec International on August 6 in preparation for the World Cup, there will be plenty of top class action available to the rugby fan."

#### **Churchill Cup 2011**

Saturday June 4, Franklin's Gardens

Italy A vs. Canada, 1430

England Saxons vs. USA, 1700

Wednesday June 8, Esher Rugby

Tonga vs. USA, 1730

Russia vs. Canada, 2000

Sunday June 12, Kingsholm

England Saxons vs. Tonga, 1430

Italy A vs. Russia, 1700

Saturday June 18, Sixways

Bowl Final

Plate Final

Cup Final

To purchase tickets, visit [www.churchillcuprugby.net](http://www.churchillcuprugby.net)

2010 title holders England Saxons lift the trophy (C) Getty Images



#### 4 **USA Rugby's 2011 Sevens Officiating Handbook**

Patrick McNally, USA Rugby's Sevens Referee Program Manager, has recently completed and revised the 2011 7s Officiating Handbook. It is available to download on the [usarugby.org](http://usarugby.org) site under the *Officiate the Game* heading. His previous handbook was a very useful guide for officials of 7s at all levels, and this updated version is another big step forward. Thanks Paddy and keep it up!

#### 5 **Coaching website**

I've had a few requests for coaching links. While some of the sites that I've previously recommended might not offer new material frequently, an exception is [www.irbcoaching.com](http://www.irbcoaching.com), which has monthly newsletters and regularly updated articles, practice ideas and opinions. On the site you can also register to receive the monthly IRB Coaching Newsletter by email.

**Actively yours**

*Scott Harland*

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