



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of June 26th 2011

1 The Picture

First-sorry for the delay in this week's Info Page. This will happen from time to time when I am travelling up to and over the weekend and I don't have regular internet access.

This week's picture is another challenge, but this time it's to see if you can unearth what event and teams are shown in the displayed picture. Good luck!

2 Bermuda Win Caribbean Men's XVs Trophy

On Wednesday, June 22nd, Bermuda defeated hosts Guyana in the tightly contested final of the 2011 Caribbean Men's XVs Championships. The score at half-time was 11-0 for Bermuda and that was how it would remain until the final whistle, as both teams fiercely defended their lines. Congratulations to the teams and their Unions for their achievements this year, and a hearty well done to the Guyana RFU for their skilled hosting of the final.

Bermuda now look ahead to July in Cayman Islands, where they will be trying to defend the U19 Men's XVs title that they claimed last year.

3 Canada Names Provisional Squad for 2011 RWC.

Canada head coach Kieran Crowley has named a provisional 50-man squad ahead of this year's Rugby World Cup.

The squad includes just eight professionals, with only two, Clermont Auvergne's second-row Jamie Cudmore and winger DTH van der Merwe of Glasgow Warriors, plying their trade at the top level. Although currently unattached, Luke Tait, Matt Evans and Justin Mensah-Coker have also played professionally in the northern hemisphere but Crowley insists such status does not guarantee selection.

"When I first came over here, overseas pros expected to be picked," Crowley said. "They thought that because they were overseas pros they were a long way ahead of the players playing in Canada. And they might well have been, but certainly I've seen the development of players in Canada to the extent now where a lot of them could play over there. Just because you're playing overseas doesn't mean you're a shoo-in and that's been good because it's created real competition within the team which is what we're trying to create."

The squad includes all those players on duty at the recent Churchill Cup including stand-out Chauncey O'Toole who helped his side reach the final where they were

comprehensively beaten by England Saxons. Commenting on the make-up of the group, Crowley added that everyone is in contention to make the final 30-man squad that will compete at the World Cup.

"We wanted to make it 50 to show player where they're at. We've got to make sure all players know they're in contention so they continue to work hard," he said. "It's a squad we've narrowed down when looking at positional coverage. We've picked the 50 best players that we can and the Canadian rugby Championship has played a big part in that. We've certainly used the Americas Rugby Championship trip to Argentina, the European tour in November and the Churchill Cup to expose a lot of players, which allowed us to narrow it down to the group we have. It's been a long process."

Crowley also confirmed that the Canucks will once again be captained by 37-cap hooker Pat Riordan. "Pat's been captain ever since I've been here," Crowley said. "He has the values I'm looking for in a player. He works hard on and off the field; he knows the game and creates a very positive team environment."

There was one notable omission in the squad with Glasgow's Kevin Tkachuk missing out on selection. The 50-cap prop has not figured in Crowley's squad recently and will miss out on World Cup selection, barring injuries elsewhere.

"He's been a great servant to Canadian rugby," Crowley said. "He's played a lot of Test matches and he's always been available. You respect his contributions to Canadian rugby. We just felt there's some players who have improved and have gone past Kevin in performances. I've explained that to him and obviously he's very disappointed. He's had his heart set on the World Cup."

Canada will now face the USA twice in August before opening their World Cup campaign on September 14 against Tonga in Whangarei.

Canada:

Forwards: Tyler Ardron (Ontario Blues), Brett Beukeboom (Ontario Blues), Hubert Buydens (Prairie Wolf Pack), Aaron Carpenter (Plymouth Albion), Jamie Cudmore (Clermont Auvergne), Nanyak Dala (Prairie Wolf Pack), Tom Dolezel (Ontario Blues), Brian Erichsen (B.C. Bears), Scott Franklin (Prairie Wolf Pack), Adam Kleeburger (Unattached), Mitch Gudgeon (B.C. Bears), Ryan Hamilton (B.C. Bears), Tyler Hotson (Plymouth), Jeremy Kyne (Prairie Wolf Pack), Jason Marshall (B.C. Bears), Stan McKeen (Oxford University), Sean Michael-Stephen (Plymouth Albion), John Moonlight (Ontario Blues), Chauncey O'Toole (The Rock), Kevin Parfrey (The Rock), Jon Phelan (The Rock), Mike Pletch (Ontario Blues), Pat Riordan (B.C. Bears), Jebb Sinclair (The Rock), Luke Tait (unattached), Andrew Tiedemann (Prairie Wolf Pack), Frank Walsh (The Rock), Doug Wooldridge (Ontario Blues)

Backs: Kyle Armstrong (Ontario Blues), Nick Blevins (Prairie Wolf Pack), Connor Braid (B.C. Bears), Sean Duke (B.C. Bears), Matt Evans (Unattached), Ed Fairhurst (B.C. Bears), Jeff Hassler (Prairie Wolf Pack), Ciaran Hearn (The Rock), Nathan Hirayama (B.C. Bears), Jamie Mackenzie (Esher), Phil Mackenzie (Esher), Justin Mensah-Coker (B.C. Bears), DTH van der Merwe (Glasgow Warriors), Ander Monro (Ontario Blues), Taylor Paris (Ontario Blues), James Pritchard (Bedford), Mike Scholz (Prairie Wolf Pack), Ryan Smith (Prairie Wolf Pack), Conor Trainor (B.C. Bears), Sean White (B.C. Bears), Eric Wilson (B.C. Bears), Tyler Wish (The Rock)

4 **O'Sullivan Names Preliminary Squad for 2011 RWC**

BOULDER, Colo. – Eagles Head Coach, Eddie O'Sullivan, has released his preliminary 50-man squad ahead of the Rugby World Cup (RWC) in September.

“With the World Cup less than three months away we have put together an extended pool of players from which the final Eagles Squad of 30 players will emerge,” said O'Sullivan.

The names were submitted to the International Rugby Board as part of a requirement of Rugby World Cup planning. Each rugby union will then select their final squad of 30 players by the August 22 deadline.

O'Sullivan has had an opportunity to watch half of this squad in the recent Churchill Cup competition. Several players certainly impressed in the 32-25 victory over Russia, putting up their hands for RWC inclusion.

“The players who made the Churchill Cup Squad have the advantage of having been in camp together for the past three weeks,” said O'Sullivan, “But there are players who missed the Churchill Cup for various reasons.

With a busy July of fitness training ahead and three warm-up games in August, there will be plenty of opportunities for players to impress before we select the final RWC Squad near the end of August.”

The preliminary squad consists of 26 forwards and 24 backline players.

The Eagles will next assemble at the end of July, before taking on Canada on August 6 (BMO Field, Toronto, Canada) and August 13 (Infinity Park, Glendale, Colo.). The USA will then travel to Tokyo to play against Japan on August 21.

USA EAGLES RWC PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Forwards:

Inaki Basauri (L' Aquila), Chris Biller (San Francisco Golden Gate), Mark Bokhoven (Denver Barbarians), Ryan Chapman (Utah Warriors), Todd Clever (Suntory Sungoliath, Japan), Pat Danahy (Life University), Cameron Dolan (Life University), Eric Fry (Las Vegas Blackjacks), JJ Gagiano (Univ. of Cape Town), Matt Hawkins (Belmont Shore), Nic Johnson (Unattached), Will Johnson (London Irish), Tom Katzfey (New York Athletic Club), Danny LaPrevotte (San Francisco Golden Gate), Scott LaValla (Stade Francais), Mike MacDonald (Leeds Carnegie), Samu Manoa (San Francisco Golden Gate), Brian McClenahan (Olympic Club), Mate Moeakiola (Bobigny 93), Alec Parker (Glendale), Shawn Pittman (London Welsh), Anthony Purpura (Boston Rugby), Hayden Smith (Saracens), Louis Stanfill (Mogliano), Phil Thiel (Life University), John van der Giessen (Utah Warriors)

Backs:

Paul Emerick (Life University), Tai Enosa (Belmont Shore), Troy Hall (New York Athletic Club), Colin Hawley (Olympic Club), Nese Malifa (Glendale), Taku Ngwenya (Biarritz), Folau Niua (San Francisco Golden Gate), Thretton Palamo (University of Utah), Mike Palefau (Utah Warriors), James Paterson (Otago Highlanders, New Zealand), Mike Petri (New York Athletic Club), Volney Rouse (San Francisco Golden Gate), Blaine Scully (University of California - Berkeley), Robbie Shaw (Bristol Rugby), Junior Sifa (Nottingham RFC), Andrew Suniula (Chicago Griffins), Roland Suniula (Boston Rugby), Shalom Suniula (Unattached), Kevin Swiryn (Agen), Zack Test (Unattached), Pate Tuilevuka (Old Puget Sound Beach), Seta Tuilevuka (Montpellier), Tim Usasz (Nottingham RFC), Chris Wyles (Saracens)

RWC BUILD-UP SCHEDULE

August 6, 2011: USA v. Canada (BMO Field, Toronto, Canada)

August 13, 2011: USA v. Canada (Infinity Park, Glendale, CO)

August 21, 2011: USA v. Japan (Tokyo, Japan)

Further Information:

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5 Women's Eagles Prepare for Nations Cup at Olympic Training Centre

The BOULDER, Colo. – USA Women's National Team Head Coach, Pete Steinberg, has announced the player pool for a training camp at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista ahead of the 2011 Nations Cup. The athletes arrive on Wednesday June 22 and depart on Sunday June 26.

The Nations Cup, to be held from August 2-13 in at Appleby College in Oakville, Ontario, will see the Women's Eagles will face England, Canada and South Africa in pool play with the aim of qualifying to play in the championship game on August 13.

Steinberg has already identified 15 players for the Nations Cup squad but there are a handful of players attending the camp who will gain experience training at the highest level in an Olympic environment.

"This camp will primarily focus on preparing for England and Canada. We'll only have one practice day before we play England, so we need to install our approach on attack and defense," said Steinberg.

Steinberg also identified the set piece as an area of focus in the camp. Getting lineouts and scrums in a good place before the camp ends will give the USA a platform for attack and go-forward ball. Establishing the set piece is crucial to do beforehand, given the short preparation time before facing 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup runners-up, England in the Nations Cup opener.

Lineout expert and all-time caps leader for the USA, Luke Gross, is on the Women's Eagles staff and will lend his expertise to the team.

This will mark Steinberg's first National Team assembly as head coach since assuming that role earlier this year. He has been busy at work ever since, analyzing film from the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup, the Women's Premier League and the January Women's High Performance camp.

The 2011 College Championships and the Collegiate and Club All-Star Championships were used to scout players and identify talent.

The last time the Women's National Team was assembled was last year when they claimed 5th place in the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup, defeating Canada in thrilling fashion 23-20.

Forwards:

Stacy Baker (Keystone Rugby Club), Libby Berg (Minnesota Valkyries), Sharon Blaney (Beantown), Stacy Bridges (Westmoreland Highlander RFC), Jamie Burke (Beantown), Lisa Butts (Nor Cal Triple Threat RFC), Sarah Chobot (Minnesota Valkyries), Kate Daley (Chicago North Shore WRFC), Lauren Daly (At Large), Farrah Douglas (Washington Furies), Anne McClain (Atlanta Harlequins), Laura Miller (Washington Furies), Tina Nesberg (Stanford/ San Jose Seahawks), Jillion Potter

(Glendale), Shaina Turley (San Diego Surfers), Kittery Wagner (Beantown)

Backs:

Sadie Anderson (Penn State), Sylvia Braaten (Twin City Amazons), Rebecca Brafman (New York Rugby Club), Francine Bray (Austin Valkyries), Emilie Bydwell (Beantown), Amy Daniels (Beantown), Katie Dowty (Beantown), Victoria Folayan (Berkeley All-Blues), Devin Keller (Keystone), Lynelle Kugler (Twin City Amazons), Jennifer Lui (Chicago North Shore WRFC), Kaelene Lundstrum (Twin City Amazons), Kim Magrini (Keystone), Desiree Markovich (Minnesota Valkyries), Samantha Pankey (James River Women's RFC), Caroline White (Seattle RFC)

2011 WOMEN'S NATION CUP

OAKVILLE, ONTARIO (CANADA)

August 2, 2011: USA vs. England

August 5, 2011: USA vs. Canada

August 9, 2011: USA vs. South Africa

August 13, 2011: Nation Cup Finals (1st v. 2nd, 3rd v. 4th)

Further Information:

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6 Historical Laws Quiz

Looking through some old laws quizzes (wish I'd kept more of the ones I'd seen over the years). The laws have changed a lot over the years, but a newer player wouldn't know how the game has evolved unless he came and saw Old Blowhardigans playing a reunion match vs Cracklyjoints XVs by the old laws.

For those that recall, drag your memories back to answer these posers. For those that weren't around, take a guess and good luck! I'll announce the name of the first person to respond correctly to all the questions, and I'll send answers, and more questions, next week.

1. How much was a try worth in 1984?
2. How far did the laws allow a scrum to wheel in 1985?
3. What was the limit on players you could put into a scrum in 1991?
4. How long did the loose forwards have to stay bound to a scrum in 1988?
5. How long was a yellow card suspension in 1992?
6. How many substitutions were allowed in 1986?
7. How long were you allowed for a "blood sub" in 1987?
8. What was the scrum engage sequence in 1981?
9. What forms of kick could you use to kick for touch in 1986?
10. What were kicking tees made out of in 1985?

Send your answers in a reply email, and if you have any favourite oldies questions for me to include next week send those as well-thanks!

7 Jamaica National Men's Team v USA South

I was going to provide a report on this match myself, but John Devonport, USA South's Manager sent this vibrant description and I'll eagerly poach it! While it understandably focuses on the match from USA South's perspective, it expertly captures the exciting, running nature of the match and excellent mood of the event-thanks John!

USA South v Jamaica
Saturday June 25 2011
Kingston, Jamaica

Both sides were first-round knockout losers in the NACRA tournament, with Jamaica losing narrowly to Cayman and the USA similarly to Mexico. The South, driven by their Mexican experience, challenged Jamaica to play in Jamaica. This was accepted, IRB approval was given and the game was on.

The South had four team changes from the Mexico game due to injury and availability. Mathew Hughson and Ty Elkins from Charlotte were drafted into the backs, with Jarret Falcon (New Orleans) and Dave Meehan (Boca Raton) joining the forwards.

Jamaica had not hosted a non-Caribbean touring team for over 20 years, so this was new territory for them in an organizational and playing sense, and it was only the second overseas journey for the South. The Jamaica RFU is also going through some major restructuring under the capable hands of CEO Anne Shirley while having to compete for playing resources with a well-financed (UK) Rugby League program on the island, so the challenges were many and various.

The game was played in the beautiful setting of the UTECH grounds in Kingston, settled in under the Blue Mountains with a temperature of 82 degrees offset by a nice breeze. JRFU had prepared a great surface on close to a full-sized pitch.

The referee was none other than Canadian Scott Harland, NACRA's Development Officer, who had also managed to jam in a referee course and a Level 1 coaching course in his two days on the island!

Game

Jamaica kicked off supported by a brisk breeze and the honors were even as each side felt each other out. First blood to the South in the 10th minute as scrum half Anthony Alexander (Little Rock) finished off some great approach work by the forwards. His try was converted by club-mate Chance Hugh, who had certainly brought his kicking boots with him. 7-0 after 10 minutes.

The forwards continued to seek supremacy on both sides and Jamaica showed flashes of brilliance with dangerous break-outs by their talented and fast backs, which asked many questions of the South defence, but they were up to it.

In the 20th minute, a concerted drive by the South pack through multiple phases saw #7 Tim Barford of Loughborough University, who had taken over pack leadership while skipper Shawn O'Brien (Johnson City) was off for repairs, drive over from close in. Conversion by Hugh took the score to 14-0.

Jamaica continued to press for cracks in the South defence and were eventually rewarded with a break-away and kept the pressure on to score near the posts. 28 minutes, score 14-5.

The game ebbed and flowed both ways, before a game ending injury to hooker Owen Sharer (University of South Carolina) saw him replaced by Jarret Falcon of the successful D2 national champions New Orleans, with Barford moving to hooker. Some tight exchanges up front saw Scott Terrell (Huntsville) gone for the game with an ankle injury to be replaced by David Meehan (Boca Raton) on 39 minutes.

The pack stepped up the pressure on Jamaica creating more and more opportunities for the South backs, who were becoming increasingly penetrative and confident. Then, man of the match Mark Fulmer (Little Rock) delivered two killer blows with two tries in the final two minutes of the first half, with one converted. Half time score: South 26, Jamaica 5.

Skipper O'Brien did not return for the second half, and was replaced by Rob Hoffman of New Orleans at 8. The South also brought speedster Ty Elkins (Charlotte) on to add fresh legs effective as South piled on the pressure. Jason Forseman was able to wriggle through for a try to the attack at the start of the second half. These impact changes were immediately 14 minutes into the second half as Jamaica were pinned back with some great tactical kicking from No. 10 Jeff Reuther, who continued to put Jamaica on the back foot. This try was again converted by Chance to make it 33-5.

Jamaica would not lie down, soaking up waves of approach work by the rejuvenated South pack, but the pressure told when Fulmer was able to score his third try of the game on the hour through a well worked overlap. 40-5.

Jamaica made their changes and their strength in off-loads led to some anxious moments as they penetrated the South line only to often lose the ball on turnovers coming from resolute defensive tackling by the South backs.

A counter-attack saw the South go further ahead with an opportunist's try ahead by New Orleans sub Rob Hoffman, which went unconverted. 45-5

The South closed the final quarter by tightening the screws. They brought on their subs --Abukuppeh of Little Rock and trainer Sean Borman of Boca -- before delivering the final blow with a try from Mathew Hughson of Charlotte, the score again converted by the impeccable boot of Chance, who was 6 for 8 on the day. Final score 52-5.

Considering Jamaica have had so little exposure to visiting teams they lacked for nothing in spirit and defiance and at times showed the bursts of electrifying pace that have defined their sevens success.

A strong bond has been formed between to two sides through the game and the hospitality, which was second to none.

Both teams look forward to further exchanges as Jamaica regroup and rebuild and the South continue to benefit from their close relationship with their NACRA brothers in this emerging partnership which can only benefit all.

South Team

- 1 Brad Hyman Little Rock
- 2 Owen Shearer Univ South Carolina
- 3 Nathaniel Greene Johnson City
- 4 Scott Terrell
- 5 John Luhrsen Naples
- 6 Josh Wolverton Little Rock
- 7 Tim Barford Loughborough College
- 8 Shawn O'Brien Johnson City (Captain)

- 9 Anthony Alexander Little Rock
- 10 Jeff Reuther New Orleans
- 11 Mark Fulmer Little Rock
- 12 Mathew Hughson Little Rock
- 13 Jason Forseman Johnson City
- 14 Ross Bellacchi New Orleans
- 15 Chance Hugh Little Rock

SUBS

- Daniel Brickey Little Rock
- Thad Abukuppeh Little Rock
- David Meehan Boca Raton
- Jarret Falcon New Orleans
- Ty Elkins Charlotte
- Robert Hoffman New Orleans
- Sean Borman Boca Raton Huntsville

8 Rugby through Social Media

If you are looking for up-to-the-minute rugby discussions, news, polls and opinions from around our region and the rest of the world, through Twitter, FaceBook, Youtube and Blogs.

Rugby Canada and USA Rugby are examples of Unions that have fully embraced the new technologies, and you can enter discussions, get training tips and all the many etceteras by tapping into them at:

- USA Rugby at Facebook: www.facebook.com/usarugby
Twitter: @usaeaglesrugby)
- Rugby Canada at Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rugbycanada>,
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RugbyCanada and
Youtube: www.youtube.com/rugcanada

Actively yours

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