



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of July 30th, 2011

1 THE PICTURE

This week's picture was sent to me by Gerry Fitzgerald, wise guru of officials in the Florida Rugby Union. I'm sure many of us have felt like we were playing on a tilted surface before-I can recall one field with a bowl shaped left corner that directed grubbers right into the in-goal. Left many a visiting fullback flummoxed!

I'm collecting stories and pictures of unusual fields, situations etc. where rugby has been played to put in future Info Pages. You can send me yours at sharland@nacrugby.com.

2 WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE ALL-AMERICA V. ALL-CANADA ROUND ONE

Saranac Lake, N.Y. - The Women's Collegiate All-American (WCAA) Touring Side faced the CIS All-Canadian team on Thursday night in the 2011

Can-Am Rugby Tournament in Saranac Lake, New York. The WCAA's lost the match 19-3 and will have a rematch on Sunday in Bloomingdale, New York at 3:30 P.M.

The first thirty minutes of the match saw no scoring as a result of the solid defense by both sides.

The deadlock was finally broken when All-Canada Flanker, Jessica Jacobs, received a yellow card in the 32nd minute. The penalty allowed for the WCAA's to mount a successful attack that led to a penalty kick by Brittany Houston in the 35th minute. The penalty was crucial for the WCAA as they had a slight 3-0 advantage, in an even match, heading into the halftime break.

Unfortunately for the WCAA's the lead was short-lived due to a try in the 41st minute by All-Canada winger, Magali Harvey, who also made the conversion to give her team a 7-3 lead to begin the second half.

The All-Canada quick score after the break was the catalyst for their 19 unanswered points in the second half, as it gave them considerable momentum and put pressure on the WCAA's to score in a defensive match.

The WCAA defense broke down again in the 55th minute and allowed All-Canada inside center, Shannon Court, to cross the try line. After Magali Harvey's second conversion the score stood at 14-3 heading into the critical final 20 minutes of play.

Other than the two lapses that let in tries, the WCAA defense handled the All-Canada attack very well, which kept themselves in the game until the 78th minute when All-

Canada replacement lock, Randi Hunter, scored the deciding try and finalized the score at 19-3.

Although the match did not end up the way the WCAA's would have liked, their physical play and defense is something to build the offense off of for their rematch on Sunday. The match on Thursday was the first time the team has played together and they will surely benefit from its experience and the following days of rest and preparation.

The second and final match of the series will be played on Sunday, July 31 at 3:30 P.M. on Bloomingdale Field, Bloomingdale, New York.

Women's Collegiate All-American Touring Side

- 15 Katie Lorenz (UNC-Chapel Hill)
- 14 Rebekah Siebach (BYU)
- 13 Justina DeBruzzi (Univ. of St. Thomas)
- 12 Kristi Jackson (BYU)
- 11 Tyra McGrady (Indiana)
- 10 Kara Remington (BYU)
- 9 Brittany Houston (c) (UW-Milwaukee)
- 1 Rachel Ryan (Wyoming)
- 2 Joanna Kitlinski (Grand Valley State)
- 3 Elizabeth Fierman (Northeastern)
- 4 Kyle Armstrong (Penn State)
- 5 Wendy Sherman (Colorado State)
- 6 Candace Barley (Lee Univ.)
- 7 Kendra Klump (MSU-Mankato)
- 8 Laura Miller (St. Mary's College of Maryland)

Reserves

- 16 Morgan Johnson (North Dakota State)
- 17 Katie O'Malley (Stonehill)
- 18 Evelyn Ashenbrucker (UC San Diego)
- 19 Rebekah Knappe (Colorado State)
- 20 Kimber Rozier (c) (UNC-Chapel Hill)
- 21 Melissa Krug (Univ. Minnesota-Twin Cities)
- 22 Alyssa Baccarella (MIT)

WCAA Tries: none Conversions: none Penalties: Houston (35')

Substitutions: Krug on for Barley (35'), Ashenbrucker on for Sherman (46'), Rozier on for Remington (63'), Johnson on for Armstrong (66'), O'Malley on for Jackson (76'), Knappe on for Krug (76')

CIS All-Canada

- 15 Lisa Gauthier (St. Francis Xavier)
- 14 Natasha Watcham-Roy (Univ. of Ottawa)
- 13 Andrea Wadsworth (Queen's University)
- 12 Shannon Court (Univ. of Lethbridge)
- 11 Magali Harvey (St. Francis Xavier)
- 10 Kate Foulds (Univ. of Ottawa)
- 9 Elizabeth Mackinnon (Univ. of Calgary)
- 1 Briana Cunningham (Univ. of Waterloo)

- 2 Mary-Jane Kirby (Guelph Univ.)
- 3 Elie Papineau (Univ. Laval)
- 4 Steffany Hoffman (Univ. of Alberta)
- 5 Abby Goodwin (Univ. of Victoria)
- 6 Lea Leahy (Concordia Univ.)
- 7 Jessica Jacobs (St. Francis Xavier)
- 8 Sam Eyles (Univ. of Waterloo)

Reserves

- 16 Randi Hunter (Univ. of Victoria)
- 17 Sumara Profit (Univ. of Prince Edward Island)
- 18 Carmen Hobbs (Univ. of Alberta)
- 19 Chelsey Waldie (Univ. of Prince Edward Island)
- 20 Susan Heald (Queen's Univ.)
- 21 Rachael McMaster (Univ. of Western Ontario)
- 22 Jennifer Shotbolt (Univ. of Western Ontario)

CIS All-Canada Tries: Harvey (41'), Court (55'), Hunter (78') Conversions: Harvey (41', 56') Penalties: none

Substitutions: Hunter on for Hoffman (31'), McMaster on for Wadsworth (40'), Profit on for Cunningham (53'), Hobbs on for Eyles (53'), Heald on for Mackinnon (59'), Shotbolt on for Watcham-Roy (59'), Waldie on for Court (63')

3 IRB ADVISORY NOTE REGARDING ON-LINE SCAMS

Please see the attached memo from the IRB regarding a current e-mail World Cup ticket scam.

4 OFFICIALS- REFLECTIONS FROM NATIONS CUP IN BUCHAREST

Referee Andrew McMaster of Rugby Canada has provided the following very informative summary of his experience at the 2011 IRB Nations Cup in Bucharest. Thanks to Andrew and Rugby Canada for this.

Nations Cup – Thoughts and Reflections

Overall, the experience was what I expected, with some high-level play and good knowledge and compliance by players. That being said, the three referees undoubtedly brought the level of play by being both strict and consistent. I was a little surprised by how informal the PR process was, but the three referees were all at the end of their season, so this may have played a role. With regard to specific thoughts on my experience on the pitch, I have broken it down into three categories – communication, technical observation and tactical considerations – to be in line with my weekly game planning and review process.

Communication

As an AR, this is probably the most important part to work on, as it is for a referee. The ability to communicate a point concisely and effectively can benefit, or hinder, a match. As I would do for refereeing, I feel it is necessary to practice phraseology that I would use as an AR, to ensure the seamless delivery of information during a match, particularly when circumstances (crowds noise and distraction, pressure) might alter your behaviour. It is important not to get caught up in the atmosphere and maintain

your focus. One of the key things I noticed from all three referees was how concise their communication was. No extra words than necessary, just simple facts. This is even more important when there exist language barriers between officials/players.

Technical observations

The breakdown happens much more quickly than what we generally experience in Canada, with the arriving players in particular being very quick to the ball. Therefore, the decision-making at this phase of play must be much quicker and decisive. It also required the referee to be much closer to the initial point of contact to be able to accurately identify the first infringement.

While the speed of the decision-making at the point of contact must be quicker, it seems generally easier to actually get to the right spot and be in a position to make the correct call, as the structure of the play allows the referee to better anticipate the play.

Set-pieces can win or lose a match at this level. While the set-pieces are important at any level, at home in the club level in Ontario and even at the National level, a team can make up for a poor set-piece with dynamic open-field play. However, at this level, the ability to maintain control of the ball is important and the team with more possession through a match tends to gain ascendancy. Therefore, winning possession of first phase is incredibly important.

- **Scrum** – Managing the gap before the engage tends to be easier due to the body positions of the front rows (much lower to the ground and leaning forward not back), which generally means the front rows are closer together before the engage. The key things to look for are that the loosehead hits up (or at least level) and that after the engage you must monitor the tighthead body position and bind. This was not new for me, but reinforced the way I have been looking at the scrum. I also learned the reason why front rows have started to align head-to-head before the engage – apparently this allows a strong front row player to simply use a turn of the head on the engage to create an advantage (this was something that former All-Black Steve McDowell showed me). From an AR perspective, the referees were very clear about what they wanted identified and communicated during the match (eg. Immediately radio if a loosehead doesn't take a bind but puts their hand on the ground).

- **Line-outs** – a simple question of managing the gap, which makes identification of interference or gap-closing much easier. It is important for the AR to work closely with the referee and learn how the referee works (some prefer to set the gap at every lineout) so that the throw-in is only taken when the referee is ready.

Foul play is dealt with quickly and strictly. There is no room for leniency. For example, if a player receiving a restart is tackled while their feet are off the ground, even if it is only a couple of inches and they land safely and are able to play on, it needs to be sanctioned (advantage can be played in this circumstance), to ensure the referee sets a standard. For foul play which may be communicated by the AR, it was clearly stated by all three referees that the foul play must be clear and evident (to more than just the AR, ie. Other players, spectators etc) and must be deserving of at least a penalty, which stands to reason.

Tactical considerations

The referee and AR must operate as a team. The referees rely on the ARs to provide them with necessary and correct information and therefore expect, and deserve,

accuracy. Preparation and debriefing is important to promote this, and the benefit of a clear pre-match briefing from the referee was strongly reinforced.

You have to trust yourself. In pressure situations it becomes easy to second-guess yourself especially if, as an AR, you radio in that you have a flag for foul play, but play continues for a period of time. It is absolutely important to ensure that you focus on what you information you need to provide to the referee, and not deviate from this. Experience and trust in your own abilities helps immensely.

Always bring your own communication equipment. Despite being an international tournament, with professional referees from England and France, I was the only one to bring radio equipment. While the local society had two-way radios available, my experience is that they do not provide any useful communication benefit. I fully believe that the open-mic radio set that I brought added significantly to the ability of the team of 3 to operate effectively.

Camaraderie adds to the teamwork and trust between referees and ARs (this is nothing new but, again, reinforced what I already knew).

Overall, the experience was very good for me. While, from an AR perspective, I didn't learn anything I didn't already know, the importance of certain actions (communication in particular) really came to the fore in pressure situations. This is where practice is just as important for an AR as it is for a referee.

In addition to reinforcing the importance of specific roles and actions of the AR, I also picked up some very useful tools which I will use when I return home and referee.

5 OFFICIALS-DANA TEAGARDEN-ENFORCING THE BOUNDARIES

An interesting article by David Halvorson Jr on USA referee Dana Teagarden.

Dana Teagarden was born and raised in rural Paola, Kansas and attended the United States Air Force Academy, where she began her rugby career. In the second semester of her freshman year in 1988 she joined the rugby club and by her junior year of playing at the Air Force Academy, Dana was co-MVP of the 1991 Division I Women's Collegiate National Championship team. This accomplishment was quite impressive considering Dana was only in her third year of playing rugby. She quickly acquired her high-level rugby skills largely due to her athletic and strength base from playing high school sports as well as from growing up on a farm. But Dana also credits the rapid development of her playing skills partly to her experiences as a referee.

Dana was still fairly new to rugby and its rules in 1989 and she couldn't get consistent answers on questions she asked players, referees, and coaches. As a result, she decided to pick up a lawbook and get to know the game more thoroughly. Her past experience with rules as a referee in high school aided in her dissection of the laws of the game and it gave her an understanding of how to read and interpret the legal intricacies of the game. The intent to gain further knowledge on rugby was paired with the intent to become a better player by gaining every possible advantage she could. In this case, Dana felt that supreme knowledge of the laws of rugby and an understanding the game from a referee's point of view could give her a big advantage as a player. Her beliefs turned out to be true, as she was selected to the Women's Eagles player pool in 1991, just three years after she picked up the sport.

This expanded understanding all began one day in 1989, just one year after she began playing rugby, when a friend of Dana's told her to grab her kit and come watch a match he was officiating. Dana showed up to the pitch on a Saturday unsure of how the day would unfold and just ten minutes into the match, she was unexpectedly handed the whistle and told to finish the game. The match went smoothly and from then on she began an accelerated learning curve for the game.

Dana continued her playing and refereeing career for the next 10 years and then, after a short stint away from the game, returned to club rugby play with the Las Vegas Women's Rugby Club. But after being in the Women's Eagles player pool for five years, and refereeing for ten, Dana was not interested in playing socially; she decided it was in her best interest to participate at the highest level she knew, so she re-started her refereeing career. The contacts Dana had made up to 15 years prior still stood and because of this, she was able to jump right back into rugby.

In May 2005, Dana received her first international appointment for the U19 Girl's Canada vs. England match played in Canada. From there she refereed the NAWIRA 7s in 2006 and was selected as an assistant referee for the Women's Rugby World Cup, also in 2006. During that 2006 Women's World Cup, Dana was chosen to officiate the Kazakhstan vs. South Africa match. This was a major opportunity in her referee development because if she performed well, she would continue to referee high-level international matches. Dana thrilled the referee selectors in that first WWC match and as a result she was appointed to referee for the 2007 San Diego 7s.

In San Diego, the IRB's Paddy O'Brien appointed Dana to six matches and she was the head referee for the Bowl Final of Tonga vs. Argentina. The Bowl Final match was particularly important for Dana because the two teams had played the previous week and the referee had lost control of the match setting the stage for this to be a difficult affair; Dana proved herself as a quality referee in that match when she controlled it from her end while the players took it into overtime.

Dana's performances with the 2007 San Diego 7s and 2006 Women's Rugby World Cup paved the way for her selection to the 2009 7s Women's World Cup in Dubai and selection to the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup Referee Panel. These appointments have been significant as they have helped pave the way to international refereeing success for both Tier 2 country referees and women referees alike.

All matches are different, but they all require equal amount of focus and attention. The objective Dana has for each game is to be the right referee for the game at hand, which can be helped by attempting to understand the teams strategy in order to know where the game will likely be headed. Regardless of the level of play, Dana goes into each match with the intent of providing the players boundaries for play while effectively communicating these boundaries so the players can have more control over the game. When this is done there are no surprises during game play and both teams can play to the best of their abilities without worry of surprise calls.

With the above in mind, Dana said, "It is important to understand that referees must be active, not passive. Doing and saying nothing is an active decision that can drastically affect the game." When talking about the way a game is viewed from her point she made an analogy to roads and their warnings for tired and distracted drives, "Players must know you will be there to guide them back. The ridges on the road are

your verbal warnings, the penalties are your reflective triangles, and the rail guards are your cards.”

Dana feels that trust is what keeps the referee and player relationship going and, in turn, allows for the game to take its natural course. If players trust a referee and their judgments they will play right to the boundaries, and when players can play to the boundaries, they can play to the best of their abilities. Dana has engraved the above ideas into her mind and instinctively acts this way so that everyone involved can thoroughly enjoy the game.

Dana’s hard work and devotion to improving her understanding of the game lead to her accomplished playing career, and an even more outstanding refereeing career. She’s been able to win a National Championship, represent her country as a player and travel the world as a highly respected official. She is truly a picture of what is possible in the sport of rugby when someone decides to pursue the game at it’s highest level.

6 TSN TO BROADCAST 2011 AND 2015 RUGBY WORLD CUPS

TSN has reached an exclusive, multimedia rights agreement with Rugby World Cup Limited (RWCL) for the upcoming RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 and RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015. The deal also includes French language rights for RDS. This marks the first time TSN has broadcast the Rugby World Cup since 1995.

As part of the deal, every RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 match will be broadcast live on either TSN, TSN2 or TSN.ca.

TSN, TSN2 and TSN Mobile TV will deliver live broadcasts of all Team Canada matches, the quarter-finals, semifinals and Finals along with other key matches from the 2011 and 2015 tournaments. Select matches will be broadcast live exclusively on TSN.ca.

The RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 runs from Friday, Sept. 9 to Sunday, Oct. 23 in New Zealand, and includes a total of 48 matches featuring the Top 20 teams from around the world. Rugby World Cup 2015 takes place in England.

Canada is currently ranked 16th in the world. During the RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011, they play in a competitive Pool A along with New Zealand, France, Tonga and Japan.

SportsCentre and TSN.ca will complement TSN's RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 coverage with news, analysis and video from New Zealand. ESPN Classic will showcase great matches from past RUGBY WORLD CUPS.

"The RUGBY WORLD CUP is a huge, internationally-celebrated event that attracts millions of viewers from around the world and continues to grow in popularity in Canada," said Shawn Redmond, Vice-President of Programming, TSN. "We are looking forward to showcasing rugby's marquee event to Canadian sports fans across all TSN platforms as Team Canada looks to make their mark on the international stage."

"Today's announcement represents a significant boost for the reach and profile of rugby in Canada," said RWCL Managing Director Mike Miller. "TSN is Canada's leading sports broadcaster renowned for its high quality broadcasting of major international sports events. They will bring their unique sound, style and passion for

live sport to a tournament that is firmly established as one of the world's premier sports events."

TSN also confirmed today that the network will broadcast Team Canada's two upcoming international friendly matches against the United States. Team Canada takes on the #17 ranked United States at BMO field in Toronto and TSN will have live coverage on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. ET. The two rivals face-off again in Denver on Aug. 13 at 9 p.m. ET airing live on TSN2.

7 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TOURNAMENT

Any who have been to the T&T 7s tournament can speak to the quality of both the competition and the entertainment at this legendary event. Organizers are moving the event to beautiful Tobago to offer teams the chance to enjoy the great beaches during their tour. I have attached the tournament invitation letter, tour package details and registration form. See you there!

Actively yours

Scott Harland

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