



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of September 18th, 2011

1 THE PICTURE

Pictured above is Coach Educator John Long in Guyana, delivering the first of three Elite Coaching 7s Rugby workshops, which are part of a four-year agreement between the Commonwealth Games Federation/NACRA/IRB to help NACRA's national teams compete at future Commonwealth Games.

The 2010 Workshop was held in Barbados and involved coaches from 13 different Commonwealth member countries. In 2011 workshops are being held in three Unions with the strongest 7s rugby programs in the Caribbean: Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Each three-day workshop will be facilitated by RDO Scott Harland, with an expert 7s coach to share valuable experience and knowledge. John Long brought his broad experience as a coach with Rugby Canada to Guyana. The workshop in T&T will feature Ric Suggitt, who coached Canada's men's and women's XV's sides and both the Canadian men's and USA women's 7s teams. In Jamaica the guest coach will be John Tait, Coach of Canada's XV's and 7s women's teams.

2 EAGLES DEFEAT RUSSIA AT RUGBY WORLD CUP

BOULDER, Colo. – The USA Eagles showed tremendous heart to defeat Russia 13-6 at Stadium Taranaki and record their first win at the 2011 Rugby World Cup (RWC). It was a huge team performance from the Eagles in very wet conditions which saw a fantastic Mike Petri try, and the boot of Chris Wyles giving the United States their third win in RWC history.

"Delighted with the win and the performance of the team. We retained our intensity and work rate from the Ireland game. We knew Russia would play to the very end, and we prepared for that eventuality. We had Russian under pressure on numerous occasions, but they defended really well and made us work for every score we got," said Eagles Head Coach, Eddie O'Sullivan.

Russia started the match off fiercely resulting in a successful third minute penalty from flyhalf Yury Kushnarev. The Eagles came straight back strongly, using dangerous wings James Paterson and Taku Ngwenya in sweeping attacking movements.

It was off a great platform setup by the forwards that created space out wide for Roland Suniula to bust through near the halfway line. The flyhalf found his brother, Andrew, who broke through the defense and sent Mike Petri into open space. The scrumhalf did superbly carrying a tackler over the line to score a fantastic team try for the Eagles. Wyles converted putting the USA up 10-3 after 20 minutes.

The intensity at the contact point was as intense as ever, with so much riding on this

battle. The Eagles had two more penalties in the Russian half, but were unable to add to their lead as the first half ended. The Russians had to make 83 tackles compared to the Eagles 33 in the first period.

Despite the conditions, the packed crowd witnessed some beautiful rugby during the evening. The Eagles dominated possession, using width on attack, and the constant pressure led to another penalty from Chris Wyles.

Russia fought back strongly near fulltime, kicking three points through center Konstantin Rachkov. They got very close to the Eagles tryline, but two magnificent lineout steals from John van der Giessen halted the attack. The Eagles defended bravely for the remaining minutes, until victory arrived at Stadium Taranaki.

Todd Clever had another massive game leading the Eagles. The tight forwards were excellent at the set pieces, and the backline moved the ball around during difficult conditions. The try by Petri was brilliant backline support, and Wyles produced an outstanding performance returning from injury. The Man of the Match was veteran prop Mike MacDonald who had another barn stormer. MacDonald also equaled the record for the most RWC appearances of 10 matches, set by Alec Parker.

“We now have some time to rest a lot of tired bodies and get ready for the Australia game,” said O’Sullivan.

The Eagles will face the Australia on September 23 in Wellington.

3 CANADA IMPROVES TO 11th IN IRB RANKINGS

As the kudos for Canada's performance at the Rugby World Cup continue to pile up - the rave reviews have also netted some statistical significance as its World Ranking improved from 14th in the world to 11th following Monday's weekly update.

Canada beat 12th ranked Tonga last Wednesday in a stirring 25-20 come back victory. As a result the Tongans have fallen to 15th spot with 14th place going to Fiji - who gained a point from 15th.

Sunday's 46-19 loss to France was not factored into the weekly rankings - and will likely have a reflection on next week's numbers - but only slightly.

It is the highest ranking for the Canadian team since Kieran Crowley took over the team in 2008 and it is the highest ranking since the IRB began regularly charting and archiving world rank results in 2003. Rankings for the team have hovered around the 13-15 range throughout Crowley's tenure.

Canada's highest ever ranking was 8th spot following the 1991 quarter-final finish against the New Zealand All Blacks.

Canada next takes on Japan - on September 27th in Napier. The Japanese entered the tournament ranked 13th - one ahead of Canada at the time - but now Canada would enter the game as the higher ranked participant.

Italy rests just .14 ratings points ahead of Canada with 73.88 to Canada's 73.74 while Samoa sits in 12th spot with 73.59.

For more information go <http://www.irb.com/rankings/full.html> or www.rugbycanada.ca

4 REGIONAL SIDES AT 2011 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

Canada and Trinidad & Tobago recently returned from the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games in Isle of Man.

Before the tournament Rudolph Jack, the T&T team manager shared his expectations:

"In an eight team draw at this level there will be no place to hide. To play South Africa and England, two of the biggest names in world rugby will be quite an experience for my players. Sri Lanka, from what I have read cannot be taken lightly. I'm confident in the squad of players going to Isle of Man, and I know we'll give a good account of ourselves during the competition. The main thing for me is that the boys enjoy and learn something from the competition which will serve them well in the future." (T&T pictured at left).



Canada narrowly lost to Scotland 15-14 to come third in their pool, with Australia leading the group. Canada went on to lose to South Africa in the ¼ final, before showing their skills in big wins over T&T and Isle of Man to claim 5th place.

T&T were in among giants, playing England, South Africa, Australia and Canada once each, and Sri Lanka twice, to whom they lost by 12 points each time.

These experiences are important steps toward preparing young players for a future in 7s rugby, and Canada and T&T will no doubt build on what they learned and accomplished at CGY 2011.

5 BC RUGBY UNION PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

The British Columbia Rugby Union has prepared an attention-grabbing promotional video. The production quality is impressive and I look forward to sharing this far and wide as a celebration of rugby and powerful recruitment tool. Enjoy-and share!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqeXYPsd_Mw&feature=channel_video_title .

6 CANADIAN RUGBY FOUNDATION FALL NEWSLETTER

The Canadian Rugby Foundation continues its good work to support and promote rugby in Canada. Their Fall 2011 Newsletter highlights some of the ways that they are living up to their motto of "investing in the future of Canadian Rugby." You can read the Newsletter and find out more about the CRF at www.canadianrugbyfoundation.ca/.

See this and previous Info Pages at www.nacrugby.com or the Blog site at <http://nacrugbyblog.blogspot.com/>.

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