



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of February 11th, 2005

IRB SEVENS IN LOS ANGELES THIS WEEKEND

1 **Eagles out to please Patriots**

From the IRB web site

Ask your average American what they think of the Eagles at the moment and they're likely to tell you that Donovan McNabb's men were good, Terrell Owens unbelievable, but ultimately they weren't quite good enough to win the Superbowl.

The New England Patriots' third Superbowl victory in four years, over the Philadelphia Eagles, provided John McKittrick's Eagles - the US Rugby Eagles - with a chance to relax and wind down after Wellington, and captain David Fee is hoping that the Eagles' loss on Sunday isn't a bad omen. He's also calling on a whole new brand of patriots.

"I think it was the first Superbowl we've got to see in four or five years - we're normally down in Wellington - so the boys all got together for a bit of team bonding, sat down, watched it and cheered on the American football," Fee told the IRB.

In America, World Series events tend only to include, well, Americans, so the chance to see 16 of the best international Sevens sides in the world compete in a true 'world series' - the IRB Sevens series - in Los Angeles is still a new concept here, but Fee is pleased and proud to be leading a side out at home. Plus, with ticket sales for the USA Sevens - to be played at the Home Depot Center in Los Angeles - already up on last year's total, he's excited to build on last week's first outing this season, avenge a loss against Canada, and give the crowd something to shout about.

"Any time you get to play on home soil is great, and we'll want to give our home fans something to cheer about, and having our neighbours to the north in the same pool as us should be good.

"We're not really out to do anything different this week though. We're going to keep going out there, work hard, and look on the positives from last week in Wellington."

The USA takes on South Africa, Australia and Canada in Pool D on day one of the USA Sevens, starting at 10:00 on Saturday.

2 **Rugby West Indies Team leaves for Los Angeles Tomorrow**

WIRU press release 7th Feb

The Rugby West Indies Selection Committee, Niall Brooks, Team Manager, David Hill, Coach and Joe Whipple, Technical Director, last night announced the twelve-member team which will represent the West Indies at the forthcoming International Rugby Board Sevens Series in Los Angeles, USA, 12th & 13th February.

Selected are: Jamie Vernon, Omar Bynoe, Dale Cumberbatch, Kurt Johnson and Antonio Gibbons from Barbados; Elroy Graham, Odel Hyman and Nicholas Pusey from Jamaica; Troy Arjoon from Guyana; Mark Hamilton and Kelson Figaro from Trinidad & Tobago and Hollis Green from St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

The Rugby West Indies Team will leave for Los Angeles tomorrow (8th) where it is expected that they will be greeted on arrival by an official delegation representing the West Indian community in California organised by Guyana's Honorary Consul in Los Angeles, Mr. Joseph D'Oliveira.

The West Indies are drawn in Pool A with England, Fiji and Tonga and will play their first game on Saturday afternoon at 12:34 p.m against Fiji.

West Indies Team Manager, Niall Brooks may be contacted at the Crowne Plaza, Redondo Beach Hotel, telephone #310-318-8888 or mobile (954) 465-7383.

Team management:

Manager	Niall Brooks (NAWIRA Development Planning Officer)
Coach	David Hill (Canada, IRB Staff Coach)
Technical Director	Joe Whipple (Barbados)
Therapist	Moira Mulvey (Barbados)

3 **Sevens: The numbers game**

This piece published prior to the Wellington Sevens, played last weekend. Some new numbers were set there:

1 - Once every four years the Rugby World Cup Sevens happens. 1993 was in Murrayfield, 1997 Hong Kong, 2001 went to Mar del Plata and in 2005 the RWC Sevens returns to Hong Kong.

2 - this season marks the second USA Sevens in Los Angeles. Last year's inaugural title was won by the Pumas of Argentina

3 - the number of countries to have won the RWC Sevens. 1993 - England; 1997 - Fiji; 2001 - New Zealand.

4 - the number of players who could pass the 100 try mark in IRB Sevens Rugby in Wellington.

4 - England has lost only 4 times in the last 30 games, the form team according to this statistic.

5 - New Zealand are the only team to average over five tries per game in IRB Sevens history, and average 32 points per game. They have also won the IRB Sevens title for the past five years.

8 - the number of IRB Sevens hat tricks scored by Santiago Gomez Cora, second only to Vilimoni Delasau from Fiji on nine.

34 - The longest-ever winning streak of games, a record held by New Zealand. Beaten by Australia in the Malaysia Cup Final on 22 April 2001, NZ didn't lose again until a reverse to Fiji in the Mar del Plata Cup semi on 12 January 2002.

48 - Wellington is the 48th IRB Sevens tournament

49 - Los Angeles is the 49th (Canada's Shane Thompson has played in 44 of 47 so far and NZ's Amasio Valence has played in 41 of 47 - 9 ahead of Craig de Goldi in third place).

54 - Serevi's awesome average number of points per tournament.

94 - number of IRB Sevens tries scored by Fiji's Valence

97 - number of IRB Sevens tries scored by England's Ben Gollings

98 - number of IRB Sevens tries scored by Argentina's Santiago Gomez Cora

99 - number of IRB Sevens tries scored by South African flyer Fabien Juries

113 - Karl Tenana's (NZ) all-time IRB Sevens try-scoring record. Will he be passed in Los Angeles?...

396 - the number of tries to go for 13,000 tries in IRB Sevens all-time.

956 - the number of points to go for 80,000 points in IRB Sevens all-time.

1021 - the number of points England's Ben Gollings has scored in IRB Sevens.

1033 - the number he's looking to reach and pass - Waisale Serevi's IRB Sevens points record.

Statistical analysis supplied by HourGlass Vision

Best wishes to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

Tom Jones
Regional Development Manager