



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of June 17th, 2005

1 Olympic Update

In November 2002, the IOC Session in Mexico City approved the principle of a systematic review of the Olympic Programme and mandated the Olympic Program Commission to lead the process. One of the key missions of the Commission has been to set up a regular and clearly defined process by which the Olympic Programme would be reviewed after each Olympic Games.

In order to fulfil this mission, the Olympic Programme Commission developed a set of criteria to be used in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each sport and the value that each sport adds to the Olympic Programme. Following consultation with the International Federations and other key stakeholders, the report has been published.

You can access it at http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_953.pdf

The IOC Report does not include information on RWC Sevens 2005 as the Tournament was after the November 2004 deadline for the IOC to collate the data for the report.

However, the IRB is contacting all IOC Members and publicising the outstanding success of RWC Sevens 2005 to highlight the additional value Rugby Sevens would bring to the Olympic Games.

Over the last year 86 countries competed in qualification for the Tournament. All 120,000 tickets to the three day event were sold and it enjoyed 160 hours of live broadcast coverage in 37 countries, with an additional 40 hours of delayed broadcast coverage in a further 63 countries. There were 9.56 million hits on the Tournament-specific website.

A national holiday was declared in Fiji to celebrate their winning of the Sevens Rugby World Cup. The IRB will be stressing these points through to the final vote in Singapore.

2 2007 Rugby World Cup qualifying tournament

Saturday 11th June:

Jamaica 5 Bahamas 3

Cayman 12 Bermuda 6

So the final standings are:

	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost
1 st	Bahamas	3	2	0	1
2 nd	Cayman	3	2	0	1
3 rd	Jamaica	3	1	1	1
4 th	Bermuda	3	0	1	2

Bahamas (by virtue of having beaten Cayman in the round robin) progresses to the final round of the Caribbean qualifying tournament, to be played on Saturday October 1st against the winner from the Southern Caribbean.

The Southern Caribbean tourney will be played in Guyana, August 8th – 14th. The competing teams will be Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Barbados and Guyana.

3 Wales beats Canada with second half surge

Extracts from the Rugby Canada web site

Canada's National Rugby team succumbed to a second-half rampage by Six Nations Champions Wales, eventually falling 60-3 in front of a packed house at York University Stadium. Wales scored nine tries, with seven of them coming in the second-half as the size, speed and fully professional team ran amok in front of the capacity crowd of 12,800.

Canada contested well in the first-half and the 15-3 score at the interval reflected the resolve and commitment of the Canadians. Canada kept 'shape' to its game and defensively proved a match for the Welsh, with Canada winning four or five balls in turn-over situations. The second-half, however, proved the difference after Welsh coach Mike Ruddock had words with his men in the dressing room at the interval, and his team came into the second-half with much more commitment and resolve.

"We knew Canada would be tough and I wasn't surprised by the 15-3 half-time score," said Wales Coach Mike Ruddock. "But, it was a matter of just sticking to the task and wearing Canada down and then the tries would come. I think we just had a little bit more class in the end".

"Canada did very well in the first-half. They mauled well, ran hard at the gain line, and they slowed down our ball in the rucks. They had done their homework and played well."

The second-half proved a different game as the bigger and speedier Welsh players began to wear down the home team in the fierce high 30 degree heat. Canada pleased the crowd with some enterprising running in the final minutes that saw two of Canada's best players on the day, Cannon and King, make determined efforts to score.

"We have work to do," said Canada coach Ric Suggitt. " But, I'm not unhappy with the way the team played today. It showed our character that we kept plugging away right 'til the last minute of the game. We lost our structure a bit defensively for about 20 minutes in the second-half, and that is what hurts at this level."

Asked if he was pleased to be only 15- down at the half, Suggitt replied: "I'm not at all pleased with losing a game but I'm happy with the way our guys are playing, performing and evolving. We have a fantastic attitude in our camp, but we have to play more games at this level to learn how to play at this speed. We need more games like this and we'll close the score-line."

Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Jones
Regional Development Manager