



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of March 4, 2011

1 Opening Comments

Hello and welcome to the many readers of the Information Page. As Tom explained in the previous edition, he has passed the role of preparing the weekly Page to me. (This is what happens when I ask Tom if I could add a couple of items to the next edition...) I would like to thank Tom for the many years of faithful delivery of an excellent product. He has set the standard high and I will do my very best to keep providing an entertaining and informative package.

I would also like to thank Tom for the kind words in last week's Page endorsing me as the new Page editor. Though I did note that he followed with a reminder that you can ask to be removed from the distribution list at any time. Hmm.

I would welcome your contributions, requests and ideas for future topics for the Page. If you offer some material I promise not to pass you the job of preparing the whole Page! And in response to the many comments that I have already received on the matter-Yes, I took the above picture myself. Is it that obvious?

2 College Premier Division set to launch

(from USA Rugby)

BOULDER, Colo. – The USA Rugby College Premier Division (CPD) is set to kickoff on Friday March 4, marking the start of an elite collegiate men's rugby competition.

"This competition is one of the visible results of USA Rugby's commitment to college rugby. The end goal for us is to showcase the college game as a high level competitive sport in America," said USA Rugby Collegiate Director, Todd Bell.

"Pairing a dynamic and action-packed Olympic sport with well-established university brands is a great opportunity for rugby to attract new talent and expand the fan base."

The College Premier Division was originally slated to be called the College Premier League, but was changed as each of the teams are still classified as Division I and therefore teams are not technically a league, but rather an elite division.

The opening weekend of College Premier Division competition will be highlighted by the annual [Wasatch Cup](#) battle between long-time rivals BYU and Utah at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah. This matchup is the first ever USA Rugby "Barnburner," a CPD match

selected by USA Rugby that encapsulates the competitiveness and spirit of college rugby.

The first match of the CPD will start Friday March 4, with the Arizona State Sun Devils hosting the Colorado Buffaloes at the Arizona State University Soccer Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

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Further Information:

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Follow USA Rugby on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

ABOUT COLLEGE PREMIER DIVISION

The College Premier Division is an elite collegiate rugby competition sanctioned and administered by USA Rugby. The CPD is modeled after NCAA competitions and features 31 elite men’s college rugby programs competing in four conferences, Rugby East, Mid-South, Western, and Pacific. The regular season sees all teams in the conference play one another, with the two top seeds qualifying for the playoffs. Playoffs are single elimination and the two unbeaten teams advance to the CPD final. The winner of the CPD will be declared the National Champion.

CPD Quarterfinals | May 7, 2011 |

CPD Semifinals | May 14, 2011 | [Infinity Park](#) | Glendale, Colorado

CPD Championship | May 21, 2011 | [Rio Tinto Stadium](#) | Sandy, Utah

CPD CONFERENCES

Pacific	Western	Mid-South	Rugby East
Cal Poly – SLO	Air Force	Arkansas State	Army
California	Arizona	Life	Dartmouth
Central Washington	Arizona State	LSU	Delaware
Claremont	BYU	Notre Dame	Kutztown
San Diego State	Colorado	Oklahoma	Navy
St. Mary’s	Colorado State	Tennessee	Ohio State
UC Davis	Utah	Texas A&M	Penn State
UCLA	Wyoming		Rutgers

3 Potcakes Victory a Crowd Pleaser

A new club was formed in The Bahamas this year. Aptly named the Potcakes after the unique mixed-breed dog found in The Bahamas, the players came from other clubs and the junior national team to try their chances against the established clubs on the island. Coached by Garfield Morrison, the club has been improving, but have lost most of their matches by wide margins-until last weekend. Below is Ely Myles’ report on the game:

Baillou Take Nassau Cup but Potcakes Still Partying

Although the Nassau Cup was technically all over weeks ago there was still one match to play between Buccaneers and Potcakes. And what a game! To the romantics this was the game of the season, though Buccs would probably disagree.

Potcakes have been improving steadily since their first game in December - in their previous 5 games, they scored 0 - 0 - 5 - 12 - 14 points although all in losing efforts. Last Saturday's game against Buccaneers seemed to be following a familiar pattern as they were down 10 - 0 at the half, but came out well in the second, picking up a couple of quick points.

However, as the second period progressed, they seemed to forget that they didn't know how to win and by the end of the game were scoring for fun with an unanswered 32 points, including 5 tries between the Isaacs twins. A stunned crowd couldn't believe it and as they were cheered off the field, you'd have sworn they'd won the Nassau Cup.

Final score: Potcakes 32 - 10 Buccaneers

4 University of Western Ontario Women Tour to Bermuda

Natascha Wesch, the coach of the UWO Women's Rugby team and an international player and coach for Canada, recently took 12 of her players to Bermuda to help promote and develop women's rugby while helping her students build their coaching and community development skills under her guidance. By all accounts the visit was a success, and perhaps we'll soon see a women's contact rugby league in Bermuda.

Thanks and congratulations go out to Natascha and her players-with fingers crossed that we'll see more of this sort of project in the future!

Below is a media report on the visit:

(from IslandStats.com)

Members of the Western Ontario University Ladies Rugby Team have been in Bermuda since Friday promoting girls' and women's rugby in the local schools and community.

The group has visited Warwick Academy where they spoke at the morning assembly, and then hosted an introduction to rugby session at lunch for over 50 young girls between the ages of 5 to 17 years.



(Action from Warwick Academy)

They have also visited Sandy's Middle School where they introduced the basics of rugby to three different girls' physical education classes. They then travelled to Somersfield Academy, where they spent time with two physical education classes. In all, they introduced rugby to over 100 young girls in the span of 24 hours. "I really enjoyed seeing how eager the young girls were to learn about rugby. It was great to see how much they progressed in such a short period of time," says Leah Lawson (2nd year Kinesiology).

One evening, in blowing winds and rainy conditions, they ran an introduction to contact clinic for the local women's rugby club members. The experience was fantastic and within one hour the women were playing contact rugby with smiles on their faces! "I had so much fun, it was great to help grow women's rugby on the island," states Rachel Roskey (2nd year science). "I've never been on a vacation where I've been so involved in the local community. What a great experience!"

The group also attended Mount St. Agnes Academy to work with four physical education classes ranging from grade 4 to grade 10 students. "I was surprised at how the older girls were so enthusiastic about learning rugby. I was impressed by how quickly they adapted to the game. They asked about joining the local women's teams, and that was the main purpose of our journey!" comments Victoria Hunter (2nd Philosophy).

They concluded their final session at Warwick Academy today and will return to Canada on Friday. "Overall, the experience has been fantastic. We came here with the aim of getting more girls excited about playing rugby and I feel we've definitely accomplished that. In fact, we've been asked to return to the island in the near future to help continue to growth of the game," says Natascha Wesch, head coach of the Western Ontario University Ladies Rugby Team.

5 Tackle Assist Law Interpretation

Through my travels and questions from coaches and refs it has become clear that there is still a lot of uncertainty about the expected application of law at the tackle. The recent interpretation requiring the Tackler Assist to release the ball and ball carrier before attempting to regain possession is quite a change from previous practice; where we would have been tempted to penalise the ball carrier we are now asked to penalise the man on his feet.

Below is the link for a site, RugbyIQ, where you'll find Springbok Assistant Coach Gary Gold chatting with international referee Jonathan Kaplan about this particular law. If you browse around the RugbyIQ site you'll find a few other video sessions dedicated to this law, and I think they do a very good job of explaining the recent interpretation.

http://www.rugbyiq.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1799:video-blog-gary-chats-to-jonathan-kaplan&catid=105:coaching-blog&Itemid=675

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