



## **INFORMATION PAGE**

Week of March 11, 2011

### **1 The Picture**

Thanks to so many of you for your kind advice regarding my profile picture. As per your recommendations (pleas, in some cases) it has been removed. This week's shot is from a rugby session at a school in Guyana. The mud there swallows shoes, as you can see.

### **2 2012 NACRA 7s Championships**

The IRB has confirmed that the 2012 NACRA 7s Championships will also be the region's qualifying tournament for the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2013. While the location and qualifying process are yet to be announced, this is exciting news and many will remember the thrill and fierce competition of the RWC Sevens 2009 Qualifiers held in the Bahamas in 2008.

### **3 Game Analysis of HSBC Sevens**

The IRB have produced a report analyzing the HSBC Sevens series events in Wellington and Las Vegas. The report is attached, and can be found on-line at <http://www.irbsevens.com/gameanalysis.html>, along with previous reports. It is interesting to note how Sevens Rugby at the top level has settled into a number of statistical patterns regarding how long the ball is in play, which teams score with more passing and which teams score with more phases. There are also some significant changes in the style of play-for example, compared to 2009-10, this year there are 25% fewer open-field kicks per game, and teams are regaining possession of these kicks twice as often.

### **4 Rugby Web-sites**

Thanks to those of you sent me some of your favourite web-sites for rugby coaching or entertainment. I haven't had a chance to review them all, but below are a few that I have enjoyed (please note that I have not screened all the material on each site and sites change regularly, so while I offer the links here, I am not responsible for, or necessarily endorse, all of the content on each site):

- <http://www.rugbydump.blogspot.com/>. A site dedicated to rugby, showing big hits, funny moments, interviews and, well, everything!
- The 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup is long past, but there are some good clips and full matches available at <http://www.rwcwomens.com/video/index.html>.

- And for those that haven't checked it out yet, there is some fun in following the "All-Blacks Skills" parts 1 and 2, and the response videos from the Brumbies and Waratahs. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZx7dxz2CUU&feature=related>. Sky Sports has put out a general call for videos of amazing skills-perhaps we'll see one from our region make the grade?
- And for you Sevens Rugby fans- <http://www.rugbysevenguru.com/> offers some basic coaching and training ideas, as well as some dazzling clips.

## 5 Rugby Apps

(No typo-the second "p" in the heading is not supposed to be an "e"-this is not about my brother).

This is the age of technology, and there are a number of rugby-related applications for your mobile devices. Rugby games, news, coaching tools, videos and songs can all be found at various sources, though iTunes remains the central distributor for Apps. Below are a few Apps that I've checked out, and I look forward to hearing of others from some of you.

- The **USA Rugby** App provides updates and regular entries from Nigel Melville. You can find the link on their web-site or at iTunes.
- Martin Corry has an App called **Ruckingball**, which is free and offers video sessions from experts on skills or elements of the game.
- For gamers, you might like **Flick Rugby**, the simple kicking App, or Rugby09, the running, passing, tackling game. It's simple fun, but the converts are tough.
- I know of at least one official that uses an iPhone scorekeeper instead of pencil and paper. Have a look at **Rugby Scorer** or **Score Mate**. Though I don't think that they provide a screen for yellow or red cards...
- And did you know that you can subscribe to Total Rugby Podcasts on your mobile device? Look up Total Rugby on iTunes, or go direct to the source at <http://www.irb.com/totalrugby/index.html>.

## 6 USA Rugby names new Membership Director

March 4, 2011 (from USA Rugby)

BOULDER, Colo. – John Donovan has been named as the Director of Member Relations at USA Rugby. Donovan brings with him a wealth of experience in athletics administration and nonprofit development.

Donovan comes to USA Rugby from Regis University in Denver, where he was the Director of Gift Planning for University Relations. His experience in athletics administration spans over two decades. He has been the Assistant Director of Sports Media Relations at Columbia University, Assistant Director of Athletics at Yale University, and Director of Development and Foundation Relations at USA Hockey, Inc. Donovan has also been involved in fundraising and development at various nonprofits including Pikes Peak United Way, The Butterfly Pavilion (Westminster, Colo.), and the National Stroke Association.

In addition, Donovan has experience with international sporting events. He volunteered

at the 1992 Olympic Games, the 1993 World University Games, and was on the 1995 Special Olympics World Games Organizing Committee.

Though he has lived in Colorado for more than 15 years, Donovan is originally from Hamden, Conn. He completed his undergraduate degree at Southern Connecticut State University where he played on the varsity baseball team. He continued his studies at Teachers College, Columbia University and the University of New Haven.

## 7 Laws and Refs

Thanks to several of you for reminding me about the very good video review offered at the South Africa Referees web-site. There are many clips with written commentary that will provide officials, and even coaches and players, with some valuable insight into situations, laws and management of the game.

There is lots of good stuff at the SA referees site and the video review section can be found at: [http://www.sareferees.co.za/laws/laws\\_explained/clips/](http://www.sareferees.co.za/laws/laws_explained/clips/).

One particular clip to note is **110307-Clip 8 Burgess try-Turner offside**, which shows the Waratahs' Lochie Turner allow the ruck to rush past him then pick up the ball as it comes out the back on the Crusaders' side. Unfortunately, this happens fairly often. Some rucks are over so quickly that there is little time to scan and catch offenders-but as refs we should be suspicious when the team advancing past the ball doesn't get possession. Seeing this clip reminds me to watch the fringes-or the wrong team might get the ball, or even a try!

*Actively yours*

Scott Harland

Regional Development Officer

NACRA

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