



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of May 28th 2011

1 The Picture

This picture of the officials in the recent Heineken Cup final is prime caption material! Send me your captions for the above photo and I'll put some of the choice quips in next week's Info Page. Thanks Bryan Arciero for sending this in. Anyone else got some amusing photos for future editions?

2 Rugby's Oldest International Player Passes Away

Ernest C. Pinkham, who played on the wing for Canada against Japan in 1932, and who was the world's oldest living international rugby player, died on Saturday in Vancouver aged 102. He was the last living member of Canada's first foray into international rugby.

Mr. Pinkham sailed to Japan, via Hawaii, on the Empress of Canada on a two-week long voyage across the Pacific in January 1932 as a member of Canada's first official rugby team to play seven games in Japan. He played in six of the seven games- missing the first test due to injury- ending the tour tied for top try-scoring honours with seven tries, and played in the second of two tests against Japan.

Though born in England, on March 9, 1908, where he attended Merchant Tailors' School near Liverpool and where he was introduced to rugby, he came to Canada in 1924 and continued playing at King George High School and later the Vancouver Rowing Club.

Soon after joining the Rowing Club, Pinkham earned selection to the Vancouver XV, and in 1927, at nineteen years of age, played against the New Zealand Maori side at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park. He also played for Vancouver and British Columbia against Japan when it toured British Columbia in 1930. Japan considers the game against B.C. as its first official international test match, since it contained the best players in Canada at that time.

In 1931 the Canadian government proposed that the Canadian Rugby Union, which had formed in 1929, select a team to tour Japan, in order to foster trade links between the two countries.

Thus, on January 1932 a 32-man tour party boarded the Empress of Canada for the two-week voyage to Japan. The team trained by running round the decks, and doing "gymnastic exercises" and after a week's sailing the ship reached Honolulu, Hawaii, where the team went ashore to see the sights, and indulge in a heavy training session. "The ship wasn't a great place for training," said Pinkham. "It was moving around all the time, and we kept losing balls overboard."

"We were treated royally in Japan. The Canadian government paid for the trip and we didn't want for anything. We stayed at the best hotels, and ate the best food," Pinkham recalled.

The team played seven games over the next three weeks against Wasada University, won 29-13; Kyoto University, won 41-5; Doshisha University, won 30-3; Japan, lost 8-9 on a try in the last two minutes; Meiji University, won 21-8; Kanto (E. Japan), won 16-6, and the final test against Japan, lost 5-38. Pinkham played in six of the seven matches, missing the first test because of injury. He tied as top try scorer with seven, scoring a hat-trick against Doshisha University.

Twenty to thirty thousand fans showed up for the test matches and nine members of the royal family attended the games against Japan. Prince Chichibu, a member of Japan's royal family, who played rugby, and after whom the rugby stadium in Tokyo is now named, shook hands with the teams before the final match against Japan.

Pinkham retired from rugby soon after the 1932 tour and took up golf.

The original Canadian Rugby Union disbanded during World War II, and it took thirty years before another Canadian team toured Britain in 1962.

"The trip to Japan was one of the highlights of my life. To cross the Pacific Ocean by ship and play for my country in a foreign land was a great thrill. We had a good team and we gave a good account of ourselves. We tried hard, played well and put on a good show. They were a hell of a nice bunch of guys and we made friendships that lasted a lifetime."

Mr Pinkham was inducted into the British Columbia's Rugby Hall of Fame in 2005. To view his induction video click: <http://www.bcrugbyhalloffame.com/pinkham.html>

Story provided by Mr. Ian Kennedy.

3 **USA Rugby Crowns Five National Champions**

BOULDER, Colo. – Five teams became 2011 National Champions last weekend. Four champs were crowned at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah and one team won their title in Marietta, Ga. The Boy's High School, Boy's Under-19, Girl's Under-19, College Premier Division and Rugby Super League championships showcased some pulsating and magnificent rugby.

- Cal won the first-ever College Premier Division Championship in front of a crowd of nearly 11,000 at Rio Tinto Stadium
- Sacramento Jesuit won the Boy's High School National Championship, defeating defending champs Xavier
- Highland Rugby won Boy's Under-19 National Championship, defeating defending champions Utah United
- Fallbrook HS shut out defending champions, Sacramento Amazons, in the Girl's Under-19 National Championship
- San Francisco Golden Gate defeated Life in the Rugby Super League Championship in Marietta, Ga.

BOY'S HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: Sacramento Jesuit (50-27 over Xavier High School)

Sacramento Jesuit cruised through the quarterfinals and semis to face then defending champions, Xavier High School in the championship. Jesuit played tenacious and dynamic rugby to overcome their opponents, truly taking control of the game in the

second half. Jesuit's electric winger, Matt Chipman, won the MVP award for that game.

BOYS' UNDER-19 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: Highland Rugby (38-24 over Utah United)

In a dramatic and thrilling championship game, Highland claimed their 20th National Championship to send their storied coach, Larry Gelwix, into retirement on a high note after 36 incredible years as head coach of Highland. The clash was one of titans, with both teams exhibiting great skill, speed, and size. A fairy tale ending for Gelwix, whose Highland team was the subject of the film *Forever Strong* (2008). Antonio Lavemai put in a phenomenal and dominant performance in the title game and won the MVP award. The team honored their coach with one final haka following their victory.

COLLEGE PREMIER DIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: Cal (21-14 over BYU)

With nearly 11,000 fans in attendance, the first ever College Premier Division finals featured two phenomenal teams: Cal and hometown heroes, BYU. In a very back-and-forth and physical game, Cal made very few mistakes and displayed a measured ruthlessness in all areas of play. BYU kicked away possession to Cal's lethal back three. Eight man Danny Barrett was incredible in the lineouts and at the breakdown. With the victory, Cal's head coach, Jack Clark, won his 26th national title and proved that Cal continues to be the gold standard in college rugby. Cal's flyhalf, James Bailes, sheepishly accepted MVP honors in what was truly a very cohesive team performance. The game was shown live on ESPN3 and on tape delay on ESPNU.

GIRLS' UNDER-19 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: Fallbrook High School (60-0 over Sacramento Amazons)

Fallbrook's mantra: "Defense is about commitment, attack is about confidence" was taken to heart and displayed emphatically in the Girl's Under-19 National Championship. Fallbrook exacted revenge from last year's 32-10 loss to the Sacramento Amazons, and shut out the Amazons in this year's title game. The girls from Fallbrook played great rugby, using their speed and tenacity to counteract Sacramento's very obvious size advantage. Fullback Jamie Garcia was lethal with the boot and with ball in hand, leading to her earning the MVP award in the championship game.

RUGBY SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: San Francisco Golden Gate (20-15 over Life University)

In the scorching Georgia heat, San Francisco Golden Gate held on for a very tight win over hosts Life University in the Rugby Super League National Championship. Gate's defense was stout and held Life out of the try zone for the entire match, with Life's only points coming from the boot. Mile Pulu, a USA Eagle and Golden Gate center, earned MVP honors.

Further Information: Jarrod Beckstrom | Communications Manager| USA Rugby | jbeckstrom@usarugby.org

Full stories of these matches and other details available at www.usarugby.org.

Videos of the matches can be seen at www.ustream.tv/usarugby or www.livesportsvideo.com/teamselector.asp?subcat2=Life%20University&sport=Rugby

4 **St Lucia Women Win Again**

(Thanks to Colvis Samuels, President of St Lucia RFU for the following article)

The St Lucia female rugby team won both games against their counterparts from Guadeloupe on Saturday May 7, 2011 on the Corinth Playing Field. There was a sizable crowd in attendance at the event in spite of the fact that it was in the height of the Jazz festivities and the rugby spectacle had to compete with the world entertainer Trey Songz and other performers.

The two teams met twice in the past with Guadeloupe drawing first blood in May 2008 at the Mindoo Phillip Park and St Lucia drawing level with impressive wins in 2010. Both teams were committed to winning, with the new look Guadeloupe team intent on gaining the upper hand since their last defeat to St Lucia. Guadeloupe was brimming with confidence having recently defeated both Barbados and St Vincent.

St Lucia got off to a nervous start in game one as Guadeloupe managed to contain speedy Gezel Frederick and deceptive Renetta Frederick in the early stages. But St Lucia's speed couldn't be contained forever, and they broke away and scored two tries in the first half. The game see-sawed as Guadeloupe stuck to their strong pack - staying close and driving hard at the St Lucia defence until they were rewarded with two tries of their own.

The St Lucia girls persisted however, and out-manoeuvred the slower Guadeloupe players to win the game twenty eight points to ten.

St Lucia played much better in the second game after making the necessary technical, tactical and attitudinal adjustments to their all-round game. The girls scored tries almost at will which gave the coach the opportunity to involve new players and new combinations in preparation for the St Lucia International Tournament in July and other tournaments later this year. The final score in this match was forty points to nil.

Members of the St Lucia team are Renetta Frederick (Captain,) Crescentia Innocent, Electra Marcelle, Merlinda St. Clair, Sharon Bowens-Charles, Paulyn Eugene, Valerie Farrel, Saphie Charles, Marline Cherry, Yasmin Antoine, Vonette Victor, and Gezel Frederick, Garner Felician (Coach) Jerry Charles (Assistant Coach) Wedrel 'Tommy' St Clair (Manager).

Both teams were hosted at a cocktail reception on Friday May 6, 2011 at Treasure Bay Casino to welcome the visitors to the beautiful island and introduce the teams.

In addition to the female matches, the Union also launched its youth programme in the north with training sessions for the kids.

There was also a match involving members of the senior men's team.

The individuals who participated in the various activities as well as the supporters were very impressed with the show put on by the Rugby Union. They indicated it was well organised and entertaining and certainly a worthwhile alternative to Jazz. They eagerly look forward to the next event, which will be a senior men's match between St Lucia and Martinique.



The Union would like to extend sincerest gratitude and thanks to Ms Zhenya Allain who rendered first aid services free of charge to players; the management and staff of the Treasure Bay Casino for hosting the teams at a cocktail reception; the Mexican Embassy for providing the medals and trophy; Mr. Michael 'Midget' Pierre, Curriculum Officer –Physical Education and Sports; Du Boulay Bottling Company for providing water; Mr. Gayus Harry of Windward and Leeward Brewery for providing a tent and the match officials (Shaun Alcindor, Referee and Cyril Marius and Mario Chicot, Touch Judges.)

5 Officiating –Game Management Guidelines

Many Unions create documents to guide their referees, coaches and players in how the laws should be applied. This is important in establishing a common understanding of the way the game will be managed. USA Rugby produced the version that I have attached this week. It's very well done, covers a lot of material in a surprisingly short document and the pictures are very helpful.

6 Coaching

I've had a number of requests for the rest of Lee Smith's articles on attacking rugby. If you would like to read all (6 to date) articles on attack and other documents by Lee, go to <http://www.fijirugby.com> and do a search for "Lee Smith".

Actively yours

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