



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of July 2nd 2011

1 THE PICTURE

This week's challenge is to guess the year (and opposition) of the above photo of Canada's U19 women and the photo to the right featuring the USA u19 women.



2 LIVE STREAMING OF CARIBBEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Caribbean Under 19 Men and Senior Women's Championships will be taking place in Grand Cayman from July 9-16. These matches, along with other rugby features and discussions, will be shown live at www.caymanrugbyTV.com.

3 MINI-RUGBY COACHING-MORE THOUGHTS

Winning or playing?

A number of columns and articles that I've read lately deal with the conflict between the pressures on young athletes to succeed through winning and the desire to just play and enjoy the game. Some sports' leagues don't keep score at young ages, and others have variations to encourage enjoyment and reduce pressures on performance. There are certainly studies that indicate that intense development of skills under the age of ten rarely is a determinant, or prerequisite, for success as an adult athlete.

Some coaches of young players put emphasis on elaborate moves and tactics; the General moving troops about with lines and arrows, with no input or response from the "soldiers". Such coaches might find the following YouTube video useful...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiOaiVB3bsq>

Give the (little) people what they want!

Children know what they want, and often they know what they need. As a guest coach I asked some 8 year olds what they wanted to improve, then how they thought we could accomplish that. After a few minutes of guided discussion, they generated a pretty good plan for a session, and of course they were excited to try it out. Thirty seconds of group review afterwards to see what to change and what to keep and we had a session that the kids looked forward to doing again. It was a useful reminder to repeatedly consult the players (at any level). And most players are eager to take part in a session that they chose and shaped.

4 HISTORICAL LAWS QUIZ-THE ANSWERS

Thanks for the comments and guesses for last week's Historical Laws Quiz. And to those of you that begged for the answers in private email-you should know that I have no intention of relinquishing the power of "answers next issue" that newspapers, magazines and soap operas apply so effectively. I even considered giving part of the answers this week to make you come back next week, but that would be too much like the approach of "Idol" shows and Greatest Loser. If TV networks had their way, they would cut to commercial five seconds into the Olympic 100m final.

So-here are the answers to last week's questions. It is important to note that these are based on my memory and research, but I am open to correction of a credible source is provided.

While there were no entries that got all of them correct, congrats to Paul Cassidy of Edmonton for getting the most correct answers.

1. How much was a try worth in 1984? FOUR POINTS. *Up from 3 points in 1971 and changed from four to five points in 1992.*
2. How far did the laws allow a scrum to wheel in 1985? NO LIMIT (*several guessed 180 degrees-anybody have evidence of that version? I certainly recall unbinding as an 8 and waiting for the scrum to wheel back around to rejoin*).
3. What was the limit on players you could put into a scrum in 1991? NO LIMIT (*though one team would need a scrum-half to put the ball in*).
4. How long did the loose forwards have to stay bound to a scrum in 1988? UNTIL THE BALL WAS IN THE SCRUM-*then they could unbind and retire to the back foot, which was a good idea when the scrum started to spin like a tornado.*
5. How long was a yellow card suspension in 1992? NO SUCH LAW (*temporary suspensions had been in use in some Unions in the later 90s, but were not included in Law until after the 1999 RWC*).
6. How many substitutions were allowed in 1986? TWO. *Players had to be able to play several positions back then!*
7. How long were you allowed for a "blood sub" in 1987? NONE-*no player that was substituted could come back onto the field. Increased attention to the risk of blood-borne diseases resulted in the need to get bloody players, clothing, etc cleaned up before letting them continue. Some coaches have asked to make "blood subs" to deal with other sorts of injuries, but it's important to note that the blood sub law is there more to protect OTHER players on the field from the bleeding player.*
8. What was the scrum engage sequence in 1981? THERE WAS NONE-*often the hook of the team putting the ball in would yell something like "in!" and they would all smash together. Yes-there were more injuries.*
9. What forms of kick could you use to kick for touch in 1986? ANY-PUNT, DROP OR EVEN PLACE. *It was actually quite common to see players place-kick for touch-which resulted in this law being changed to avoid time wasted by so many place kicks.*
10. What were kicking tees made out of in 1985? SAND. *In the NACRA region I see a lot of kickers mimic what they've seen in older (pre-tee) matches by chopping a hole in the ground with their heel to rest the ball into for kicks at goal. What they didn't notice in the old matches was that the kicker was not placing the ball into the hole, he was putting it on the piece of turf that had been pushed up by his heel-*

essentially a sod tee. Most kickers would laugh at the practice of placing a ball a ball into a divot when a tee isn't available-the aim is to move the sweet spot higher, not lower!

Next week-more ancient laws questions!

Actively yours

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