NACRA
North America Caribbean
Rugby Association

**NACRA NFORMATION PAGE**

**Week of October 16, 2011**

## 1 THE PICTURE

We tend to pay attention to the referee only after the match and then it's mostly the losing side doing the talking. I have greatly enjoyed watching the matches in this World Cup, and a lot of that enjoyment has been because the games were well and fairly refereed.

This week's Picture is of ref Craig Joubert, who has been appointed a well-deserved spot as the ref for the 2011 RWC Final between France and New Zealand.

Craig Joubert will take charge of his first Rugby World Cup Final after the International Rugby Board announced that the South African has been appointed to the New Zealand versus France Rugby World Cup 2011 Final at Eden Park on Sunday, October 23.

Joubert, who took charge of the New Zealand versus Australia semi-final yesterday, becomes only the second South African to take charge of Rugby's showcase match following two-time Final Referee Andre Watson.

The appointments were made by the IRB's Match Official Selection Committee in Auckland on Monday following a thorough review of performances during the knock out phase.

Joubert will be joined by Rugby World Cup 2007 Final referee Alain Rolland (Ireland) and Nigel Owens (Wales) as Assistant Referees and Giulio De Santis (Italy) as Television Match Official in a highly experienced match official team. Rolland is the reserve referee.

Meanwhile, Wayne Barnes will take charge of the Bronze Final between Australia and Wales at Eden Park on Friday (2030). The Englishman will be supported by Assistant Referees Romain Poite (France) and George Clancy (Ireland) with Shaun Veldsman (South Africa) as Television Match Official.

IRB Referee Manager Paddy O'Brien said: "The IRB Match Official Selection Committee was delighted with Craig and Alain's performances in the semi-finals. Alain will perform the reserve referee role should he be required. On behalf of the Committee and all of the team I would like to congratulate Craig, Wayne and all the guys on their selection, which is entirely on merit.

"We may be nearing the conclusion of what has been a truly superb Rugby World Cup, but our focus remains firmly on consistency, penalising the clear and the obvious and tackling the 'big five' areas*.

“Collectively we continue to work together as a unit and maintain a zero tolerance attitude towards infringements and foul play across the key areas of the Game. In that regard, I would also like to thank the coaches for their buy-in to the process during this Tournament.”

IRB Match Official Selection Committee Chairman David Pickering said: “It was a very tough selection process. The overall standard in performance by the match official team has been superb and I would like to thank the panel for their dedication, teamwork and professionalism over the past four years, not just the six weeks of the tournament. They can be proud of playing their full part in contributing to what has been an exceptional Rugby World Cup.”

Joubert said: “It is an enormous honour to get the Final and I would like to thank Paddy and the Committee for giving me the opportunity. The whole team has performed superbly, assisted each other and bonded over the course of the last six weeks and I would like to thank them for their support and best wishes. I am now really looking forward to getting out there and enjoying the occasion.”

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE RWC 2011 FINAL AND BRONZE FINAL MATCH OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS >>

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE FULL INTERVIEW WITH CRAIG JOUBERT>>

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE FULL INTERVIEW WITH PADDY O'BRIEN>>

* Big five areas
a) refereeing of offsides at the ruck
b) offside from kicks
c) illegal maul formation causing obstruction
d) slowing down of scrum engagement sequence
e) accuracy of application of the tackle Law

## 2 USA WOMEN RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL EVENT

**Author: Women's Sports Foundation**

**Date: 10/17/2011**

### Deven Owsiany and Phaidra Knight will be honored at the Women's Sports Foundation's 32nd Annual Salute to Athletes

Penn State senior and USA Women’s 7s Eagle Deven Owsiany will be honored at the 32nd Annual Salute to Women in Sports, hosted by the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) in New York City on Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Every year, the WSF recognizes the country's best athletic performances, and honors those players at a massive gala and awards dinner. The guest list is impressive and highlighted by Olympic medalists and world champions like Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Monica Seles and Billy Jean King (tennis); Lauren Cheney and Abby Wombach (soccer); Mary Ellen Clark (diving); Donna De Varona (swimming); Michelle Kwan (figure skating); Laila Ali (undefeated world champion boxer); Anika Sorenstam (golf); Cat Osterman (softball); and Angela Ruggiero (ice hockey). Three-time Rugby World Cup Eagle Phaidra Knight will also be marching in the athlete's salute.

Owsiany first caught the WSF's attention during the USA Seven's Collegiate Rugby Championship in Philadelphia this past June. Stacy Holand, Associate Director of Athlete Services, was impressed that the 22-year-old was a fixture on the national 7s team. Holand introduced herself and encouraged Owsiany to look into the WSF's services, one of which includes providing grants to female athletes so they can attend national player camps and tournaments.

Holand did her homework on Owsiany, learned that the Royersford, PA, resident has enjoyed two DI college national championships, where she was named MVP in 2010; is a two-time All American; and has 10 international caps playing for the 7s Eagles in Las Vegas and Hong Kong, and will add some more at the Dubai 7s later this year. That was all Holand needed to invite Owsiany to athletes' salute.

"I'm really stoked about it," Owsiany said. "I got the invitation and had no idea I was going to be recognized at a banquet, which is really cool. They fly you out and put you up at a hotel all for free. They even make sure that you have your beauty appointment confirmed – they aren't kidding around!

“It’s going to be a really nice event with great people and speakers,” Owsiany continued. “It’ll be nice to meet a lot of professionals who competed in the Olympics. Playing for the 7s team in the Olympics is a goal of mine, and hopefully I’ll get a chance to talk to those athletes to see how their experiences went.”

The WSF has arranged a wonderful two-day event that really celebrates the athletes. They’ll spend time at the 9/11 Memorial before heading to Chelsea Piers’ Sunset Terrace for the welcome dinner and casino night. There’s a grand march and red carpet before the awards dinner, which will be held at Cipriani ballroom, and the night will conclude with a VIP after-party at Beekman’s Beach Club in South Street Seaport.

It will be a nice change of pace for Owsiany, who is currently working toward her BS in health policy administration during a co-op in Philadelphia.

## 3 CANADA ANNOUNCES TEAM FOR 2011 PAN AM GAMES IN GUADALAJARA

Canada's sevens rugby team going to the Gudalajara Pan American Games was announced on Tuesday - and it includes eight members of the recent Rugby World Cup squad just back from New Zealand.

The team, which will participate in the Games October 29th and 30th take on Argentina, Chile and Brazil in its pool and is heavy on experience with all the players featuring previous International Rugby Board experience. The other four teams in Pool B are the United States, Guyana, the host Mexico and Uruguay.

Conor Trainor, a University of Western Ontario student - will have a short turnaround before departing for Mexico on October 21st. The young speedster set a Canadian record by scoring two tries against the number one ranked New Zealand All Blacks in Canada's final pool match at the Rugby World Cup.

Joining him will be the popular flanker Adam Kleeberger - who drew enormous attention both for his play and his enormous beard during the four matches of the tournament. Other World Cup members that made the squad include Nanyak Dala, Nathan Hirayama, Ciaran Hearn, Taylor Paris, Matt Evans and Mike Scholz. The side will be anchored by Canada's current top scoring sevens player on the IRB circuit - Phil Mack.

Also in the side is the speedy Sean Duke - who has featured heavily in Canada's successful Bowl titles in 2011. Pickering, Ontario's John Moonlight will provide size and quickness as a forward - and brings several seasons of IRB experience to the table. Also into the team is St. Albert's Kyle Gilmour, who took part in four IRB events in 2011, playing at the Wellington, Las Vegas, London and Edinburgh Sevens.

Geraint John - just returned from the seven week World Cup campaign as the backs coach - says because the final selections for Guadalajara were due on October 3rd - the two sevens camps held in his absence were vital to planning not only the Pan American games but also the upcoming Dubai and Port Elizabeth Sevens tournaments taking place in December. Canada will be participating in these IRB events - in favour of the usual spring inclusion of the London and Edinburgh tournaments.

A pre Pan Am training camp will take place in Victoria on October 18th - with the team departing for the Mexican city on October 21st.

Also considered for inclusion but unavailable due to club commitments were Glasgow Warriors wing DTH van der Merwe, Esher wing Phil Mackenzie, Ospreys flanker Chauncey O'Toole and London Irish back row Jebb Sinclair.

The Pan American games, which features international teams from all around the Americas zone - is an integral to the development of Sevens as the sport prepares to join the Olympics at the Rio de Janiero Games in 2016.

Held every four years since their inception in 1951, the Pan Am Games feature athletes from North, Central and South America. This year's event is expected to draw some 6,000 athletes from 42 countries to compete in 39 sports, and is part of the qualifying process for the 2012 Olympics in London.

Canada is sending a team of 493 athletes to Guadalajara, with representatives from each of the 10 provinces and the Northwest Territories. The complete roster was released during Tuesday's media conference in Toronto.

At the 2007 Games in Rio, Canada finished third in the overall medal count with 138, including 39 gold. The United States led the way with 237 medals, followed by host Brazil (157), Canada and Cuba (135). Toronto will host the next Pan Am Games, in 2015.

**Schedule**
**October 29th**
Canada vs Chile
Canada vs Brazil
Canada vs Argentina
**October 30th**
Cup Quarter-final

**Canadian Sevens Team**
Nanyak Dala (Saskatoon, SK) (Prairie Wolf Pack)
Sean Duke (Vancouver, BC) (British Columbia)
Matt Evans (Duncan, BC) (Unattached)
Kyle Gilmour (St Albert, AB) (Prairie Wolf Pack)
Ciaran Hearn (Conception Bay, NFLD) (The Rock)
Nathan Hirayama (Richmond, BC) (British Columbia)
Adam Kleeberger (White Rock, BC) (British Columbia)
Phil Mack (Victoria, BC) (The Rock)
John Moonlight (Pickering, Ontario) (Ontario Blues)
Taylor Paris (Barrie, ON) (Ontario Blues)
Mike Scholz (Oakville, ON) (Ontario Blues)
Conor Trainor (Vancouver, BC) (British Columbia)

*You can find this and previous Info Pages, as well as videos, news, and content on rugby from the region and around the world, at NACRA's website (www.nacrugby.com) or at the NACRA RUGBY BLOG at http://nacrugbyblog.blogspot.com.*

***Actively yours***

*Scott Harland*

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North America Caribbean Rugby Association
www.nacrugby.com

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