

# Hong Kong: A Rugby Happening

by Dennis Storer

**Editors Note:**  
Dennis Storer, U.S.A.R.F.U. Coaching Chairman and National Selector was an observer at the 1981 Hong Kong 7's, while planning a 1982 Cougars tour to S.E. Asia.

**Hong Kong**  
March 28-29, 1981  
The playing performance of the Eagles in the Hong Kong International 7's Tournament was, in terms of success, only moderate, but could have great implications for the 7's game in America, and further U.S. exposure to the international scene.

The 7-a-side game has adherents, at all levels, throughout the rugby world but there are certain common denominators for success. With the extra space available in 7's, fitness and pace are essential, plus one or two players of really blinding speed. A high degree of proficiency in handling and running are also musts in a game where possession and its use is all important. So essential is possession that most successful sevens teams will choose a mobile lineout forward and specialist hooker to ensure a major share of the ball from set pieces.

The Hong Kong 7's had all the ingredients to ensure success: good weather, a large, valuable and enthusiastic crowd, and an exotic mixture of teams. The mightiest shared the spotlight with the minnows. It has become a rugby "showcase" and the 1981 tournament topped even the previous five championships dating back to 1976.

In what other rugby event could one view the glorious skills



Tim O'Brien prepares to pass vs Papua New Guinea, as Finkel comes up in support.

of the Barbarians and the Co-Optimists, the ruthless speed, power and efficiency of Australia, the non stop fluidity and awesome pace of Fiji and the uncompromising defense of Tonga, Canada and the U.S.A.?

Who had heard of Muscat (from Oman in the Middle East) before this tournament, with its worthy collection of engineers, technicians and servicemen stationed in the tiny sheikdom? We had heard, but now saw the machine - like efficiency and high-speed pace of Japan and South Korea and their smaller but similarly styled neighbors from Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. New Zealand was there too. The only country

represented by a county, rather than a national 7.

The lesser known Polynesian nations were also a threat, with Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa matching most others in pace and handling ability.

The crowd inevitably had its favorites and its villains. The Hong Kong team, of course, had the most support and performed well - a lesser version of their illustrious countrymen, the Co-Optimist (Scotland) and Barbarians (England/Wales) from whom much was expected.

The Barbarians chose English and Welsh national players who were all expert at 7's play. Andy Ripley, a star of the England 7 that won the 1973 International Tournament, was used extensively as a runner-in; occupying the left flank of the field except when laboring in lineouts or scrums. Another interesting choice was that of Les Cusworth, an England player back in 1978. Cusworth proved a first rate 7's performer and, for many discerning eyes, he was the most valuable player on his team and perhaps the whole tournament.

Scotland is the home of rugby 7's and a fine selection of Scottish internationals arrived in Hong Kong under the banner of the Co-Optimists. They had been the losing finalists (against Fiji) in 1980 and this year were even stronger under the captaincy, once again, of Andy Irvine: certainly one of the greatest attacking fullbacks in the world and a marvellously balanced 7's exponent.

The other teams favored to reach the final 4 were Australia and Fiji. The Wallabies were quite awesome in their overall speed, skill and abrasive power.

They could afford to play Roger Gould, their international fullback, at tight head prop, while Mark Ella and Mitchell Cox again showed themselves to be two of the most exciting, lightning quick backs in world rugby.

Defending champions Fiji were perhaps the biggest and fastest team in the competition, possessing the overall pace and striking ability, in a number of

(Photos by Ed Hagerty)

players, to score from almost anywhere on the field.

In the final analysis it was sheer skill and wise selection that brought victory as the Barbarians narrowly defeated Australia 12-10 for the championship. The Barbarians had not expected to advance beyond the quarter finals because they had no real flyer, and surprised themselves by sweeping through, by low margins, in their three final games against Argentina, Fiji and Australia. In so doing, they proved the value of picking forwards to play as specialists. Andy Ripley, Peter Wheeler and Gareth Williams dominated possession against often better equipped back divisions; to such an extent that they covered their team's defensive limitations and won the tournament.

The Australians were a bit unlucky to lose so closely after dominating all their earlier games. They had superior pace and defense in the final, but were frustrated, increasingly, by a lack of possession and it cost them the game.

The spectacular Fijians foundered against the Barbarians in the semi-final through their collective distaste for covering, tackling and working for possession; without which their marvellous running skills were nothing.

The Scottish Co-Optimists also went out through shortage of

(Continued on page 4)



Les Cusworth of the Barbarians, perhaps the competition's most valuable player.

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Eagle Tommy Smith scrambling vs Japan

**Hong Kong: A Rugby Happening** (Continued from page 3)

possession. They had looked, along with Australia, the most talented 7's combination in the tournament, but went out to the Aussies, losing Mike Biggar, their ball winning forward, and relying perhaps too much on the individual brilliance of Andy Irvine rather than using the pace of Keith Robertson and Roger Baird on the wing.

This was not the event to expound on the Eagles, for, at the moment, their limitations in 7's skill and experience, especially at this level of competition, are all too obvious. But they certainly made a good initial impression and, should they be invited back, will bring a much improved team.

The U.S. was represented by nine national squad players who had no opportunity to play and really practice together. Seven-a-side rugby is not yet an American pastime, thus few of the players had much background. Their record of three wins and three losses included a fine performance in the opening game against the Barbarians, and good wins over South Korea and Papua New Guinea who had both impressed in earlier rounds. Only against Western Samoa, in their third game, did they falter badly and this cost them a place in the final eight.

Their exit in the Plate (consolation) semifinal against Japan, 18-14, was unfortunate in that they completely overcame a whirlwind start, that saw Japan

jump out to an 18-0 lead, and then apparently score two match winning tries only to be called back for forward passes; decisions that erupted the crowd who were behind the Americans throughout. The Eagles walked off the field, to a standing ovation, and were, through their uncompromising courage, unorthodox and general enthusiasm, one of the most popular teams in the tournament. They will do much better in future events.

Individually the Eagles were well served by the experience and confidence of captain Steve Gray, and the powerful running and jumping of John Fowler. Mike Purcell as a final runner-in became stronger and faster as each round progressed while Tommy Smith has great potential as a running scrum half. Steve Finkel was an inexhaustible workhorse and an inspiration to his teammates both on and off the field. Billy Baldwin was often the best covering and defensive forward while Art Ward was unfortunate to be knocked groggy in his first game. His concussion and a knee injury put him out of the competition. Dennis Shanagher was able to play the dual role of inside back and forward which gave the Eagle increasing mobility and ball handling skill. Tim O'Brien might well play the same role in future 7's as he has the size, pace, power and footwork to do well in this game.

America and the Eagles were certainly honored by the performance of Tommy Smith (at scrumhalf) and John Fowler (lock) in the 15-a-side exhibition games that ended the Hong Kong Festival. Playing for the Presidents XV against the combined might of the Barbarians, Co-Optimists and Canada, the two Eagles played a major role in their team's 38-34 extravaganza of a victory. The final score was really inconsequential; like the event that preceded it, only rugby and the brilliance and pleasure it can evoke among players and spectators, was the winner.

The final moments following the exhibition games when players and spectators alike were transfixed in exultation, unable to leave that arena, was a moment I shall long remember. I was reminded how much America needs this game - its flow, its skills, its spectacle, its camaraderie and, perhaps most importantly, its ethics and the perspective it reveals between sporting competition and everyday life.

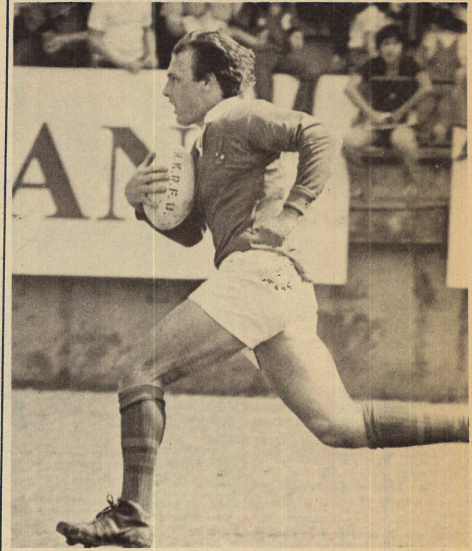
Hong Kong was all these things and the Eagles' participation in it just one more step toward bringing the joys and values of rugby into focus.

Congratulations to Ray Cornbill and the Eagles who came back, imbued with what an international rugby 'happening' can be. As for 7's - let's play much more of it here in America.



Billy Baldwin is caught in possession vs Korea.

# Eagle Match Results



John Fowler, the U.S.A.'s world class flanker, runs in a long try vs the Barbarians.

by Ed Hagerty

The U.S. had a 3-3 record and, except for a lapse against Western Samoa, showed improvement every game. Wing, Mike Purcell led the U.S. scorers with six tries while Tommy Smith and John Fowler were singled out by their selection to the "Rest of the World" XV which played Monday night.

A short capsule of their matches is as follows:

**Barbarians 20, U.S. 10**

The U.S., sky-high at the prospect of playing the tournament favorite, started out strong with good backline movements and the long football pass.

Their first score came when Finkel covered a Steve Gray kick, and passed to Fowler. The ball then went to Purcell who ran thru Nick Preston and Gary Pearce to score in the corner.

Lack of experience and bad positioning gave several tries to the Barbarians.

Fowler scored the second Eagle try when he intercepted a pass and went 40 yards for a score which Smith converted.

**U.S. 18, Sri Lanka 0**

Purcell scored the first try on a 60 yard run.

On the second, Shanagher made a 20 or 30 yard break and passed to Baldwin who scored under the posts. The third try came when Gray broke from a scrum and scored under the posts.

**Western Samoa 24, U.S. 0**

Western Samoa came out all fired up but unfortunately the U.S. was tired from the first two games and flat from the rigors and emotion of the day.

The Samoans had continual possession and the U.S. just wasn't able to hold onto the ball. They scored several tries up the middle where the U.S. had some defensive lapses.

The U.S. just never got going.

**U.S. 24, Korea 10**

In the game vs Korea the U.S. finally started to use physical size to their advantage as they broke tackles and took more initiative on offense.

Steve Finkel scored the first try on a 70 yard run after making a break and running thru a tackle. Mike Purcell then scored three tries when his teammates made the half break - set him up - and let him fly.

Tom Smith made all four conversions.

**U.S. 12, Papua New Guinea 10**  
In the quarter finals of the Plate (or consolation) Championship, the U.S. came up against Papua New Guinea a small but extremely fast team that gave the Eagles quite a bit of trouble.

John Fowler scored the first try when he grabbed a lineout and outpaced the opposition for a 50 yard score under the posts.

Purcell then straight-armed a defender and went down the sideline to score under the posts, (12-0).

Papua New Guinea came back nicely, but a missed conversion preserved the U.S. victory (12-10).

**Japan 18, U.S. 14**

In the semi final of the Plate competition, inexperience once again killed the Eagles as Japan jumped out to a seemingly insurmountable, 18-0, half time lead.

But the Eagles refused to lay down and in the second half Shanagher made a half break, passed to Tommy Smith who hit O'Brien coming up the middle for a try. The conversion was missed. Finkel then made a long break and gave a beautiful behind the back pass to Tommy Smith who scored in the corner. The final try came when Steve Gray ran off a penalty play and scored under the posts.

The fans at this point, were going crazy about the comeback and the Eagles almost pulled it off. They had, what appeared to be, two legitimate tries but both were called back for forward passes.

So it goes.

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# The Biggest, Fastest and Best

Text and Photos  
by Ed Hagerty

Hong Kong  
March 24-31, 1981

When I boarded Pan American's flight 5 for the 13 hour trip to Hong Kong I had no idea what to expect. I've truly enjoyed the organization, social amenities and caliber of play at stateside events like the Monterey, Hawaii and Territorial tournaments. I've been impressed by the tradition, excitement and displays of skill at international matches in Lansdowne Road (Ireland) and Cardiff Arms Park (Wales). But for me, the Cathay Pacific/Hong Kong Bank Sevens Tournament was the most exciting rugby event in the world. Here, in an exotic Far Eastern city, the biggest, fastest, and best rugby players from 20 countries, put on a demonstration of skill and speed, under true festival conditions, that will be very difficult to duplicate.



The U.S. Eagle Squad: [L-R] Mike Purcell, Tim O'Brien, Tom Smith, Art Ward, Denis Shanagher, John Fowler, Steve Gray [Captain], Bill Baldwin, Ray Cornhill [Coach], Steve Finkel.

Social Event  
The Hong Kong Sevens is the

social event of the year for the British and American communities. The 20,000 seat Hong Kong Stadium was packed for the duration of the tournament and the people were tremendously responsive to displays of good rugby and good sportsmanship.

Only the Best  
Will Do

Though the word is certainly over-used, the rugby could only

be described as fabulous. Nearly every country had their best men on the field, and whenever any of these players got a step on you - it was usually bye,bye. New Zealand tried to compete with their county level champions (Auckland) and they were blown away. (only the best will do). True, some of the teams were over-matched (e.g. Malasia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka) but every

team had their moment in the sun, in front of a full house, and every team gave it their all.

Escorts

Each of the teams was looked after by a club in the Hong Kong R.F.U. and the Eagles were guided by members of the Hong Kong Royal Police. The Eagles permanent escorts, Bruce Vogel and Bill Kirkhope, did an outstanding job from the moment they met the Eagles at the airport and whisked them thru customs, till the day they departed.

Bruce and Bill took the team on shopping tours, made sure they got to the appointed practice field, and even arranged for a police launch to take them to Lantau Island for a workout and a very pleasant curry lunch.

They were also on hand to escort the Eagles to a cocktail party at the residence of U.S. Ambassador William Shoemister.

Hong Kong Hilton

The Hong Kong Hilton was a great place to headquarter this world class tournament. The international clientele of the luxurious, 800 room hotel was further enhanced by the influx of top athletes from 20 far-flung rugby playing nations; each team providing distinctive physical specimens of the best that culture had to offer.

The cocktail lounge in the (Continued on page 6)

## Championship:

# Barbarians 12, Australia 10

March 29, 1981

The Barbarians of Britain won the Hong Kong Sevens' perpetual cup by defeating the Australian national side, 12-10, in a spectacular championship match.

From the opening whistle, the action swung from end-to-end as both teams battled for position. The "Baa-Baas" attacked frequently but their individual break-throughs were repeatedly foiled by determined Australian tackles.

To the crowd's elation, the Barbarians drew first blood through a magnificent try by Woodward. Cusworth calmly converted to give them the lead at 6-0.

Australia retaliated minutes later when a fine display of teamwork gave Glen Ella the chance to score and narrow the margin to 6-4 at halftime.

The early second-half saw a brilliant try by the man-of-the-match, Les Cusworth. He dummed his way past two Australians and burst through the unguarded center for a dynamic try. He then gave the Barbarians a 12-4 lead by converting his own try.

Australia's hopes of a speedy comeback were dashed when a try by substitute Roach was disallowed and a scrum given instead. In the final minute Cusworth narrowly failed to convert a 25-metre penalty that could have further stretched the Baa-Baa's lead.

Instead, it was Australia who had the final flurry - a last-second try by Roach and the subsequent conversion by Moon made the final score a respectable 12-10 to the Barbarians.

Barbarians

On the way to becoming this year's champion the Barbarians defeated the Pumas of Argentina 8-6 and the 3-time former champions Fiji. Fiji, who promised to repeat their dazzling form of last year by emerging winners of their group, showed signs of weakening in their quarter-final against Canada.

The defending champions could only manage to take the game at 12-7 and their customary fluidity and change of pace were missing. They came unstuck against the determined Barbarians who defeated them 10-6 in the semi-finals.

Australia

The other finalist, Australia, showed excellent form on their path by winning Group D, beating Western Samoa 38-0 in the quarter-finals and brushing aside jaded Co-Optimists 18-10 in their semi-final.

Scotland were the blue-eyed boys of the tartan sporting fans, but up against the magic of Australia's Ella brothers, Brendan Moon and Michael O'Connor, they were reduced to mere mortals.

PLATE COMPETITION

Tonga 22,

Japan 18

The Plate competition - although designed as consolation for the losers in the individual groups - proved to be as exciting as the main Cup. Asian champions Japan - heavily tipped before the tournament to be in the Cup - fought their way convincingly into the finals.

The final was a wide open, back and forth game in which Tonga stormed back from a 10-0 deficit to win convincingly 22-18.

It was rousing, classic Sevens fare with brilliance, imagination and pyrotechnics enjoying top priority, and the scene would not be complete if we did not tell you of the gracious bows to the crowd of the Plate finalists Tonga and Japan and the crowds enthusiastic response.

Even more stirring was the Barbarians' joyous victory lap around Hong Kong Stadium (located in an area of Hong Kong aptly named Happy Valley), in the midst of a mob of swarming children, while the crowd rose to their feet in thunderous applause. The smile on the face of Barbarian Captain, Andy Ripley, as he held aloft the victory cup, said it all.

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# HONG KONG



6'4" Fijian flyer, Senivalati Laulau, roars past a Hong Kong defender for another try. Laulau was arguably, the fastest man in the competition.

## The Biggest, Fastest and Best (Continued from page 5)

Hilton lobby became a voyeur's paradise. Intermixed with exotic Asian and European women, was a fabulous parade of multi-hued athletes from all corners of the globe. Most countries were turned out in well tailored, brightly colored tracksuits; the light blue of Korea, the green and gold of Australia, the black and white of Fiji, the red, white and blue of the U.S., etc.

The hotel management, well aware of the exuberant nature of the players, had adopted a very forgiving attitude but they needn't have, the behaviour of all teams was exemplary.

Class tells.

### Running

For one whom a daily workout is essential to the maintenance of sanity, I am indebted to the Hilton. Besides their well equipped gym and heated pool, they've also instituted a unique program that enables running junkies, like myself, to continue getting high

in strange cities. Hong Kong is a mass of crowded, diesel fumed streets, built on the side of a rather imposing peak, a daunting prospect to many runners. but the Hilton folks have instituted a unique, early morning running program.

The wake up call came at 6:15 and not knowing what to expect, I hurriedly dressed and stumbled down to the lobby. There I found a short, compact, middle-aged runner named John Houghton doing stretching exercises at the assembly point.

On the dot of 6:30, a white Mercedes sedan appeared and our uniformed driver transported us halfway up Victoria Peak. He deposited us at the beginning of Bowen Road - a bucolic, 5 mile long path, (closed to vehicular traffic), which presents a tremendous view of the city, the harbor and Kowloon.

It was one of the most interesting runs I've ever been on.

Even at this early hour, the wide path was alive with Chinese of all ages running, doing calisthenics, or practicing Tai-Chi. I noticed that a few of the older gentlemen had brought along pet birds - which hung (in cages) from trees adjoining their exercise areas.

We also passed several religious shrines where incense burned in memory of departed ancestors. Col. John Houghton, my running partner, is a defense attache to the Canadian Embassy in Peking, and has travelled widely in China. John enjoys living in Peking, belongs to a running club there and numbers among his closest friends a fellow runner who works in a local jeep factory.

He described life in Peking as pleasant except for the dreary winter months where high winds and dust created havoc. Several years ago the Chinese decided that mosquitos were breeding in the grass so they ripped up every blade of it in the city. The dust evidently gets so bad during winter months that the bicycle mounted herds of workers who pass, daily, beneath his fourth floor window, - are frequently obscured by a cloud of brown dust.

### Banquet

The Hilton was also the site of the competition's magnificent, Sunday night banquet. All 20 teams, plus the cream of Hong Kong society, gathered in the

Hilton's ballroom for an evening of food, drink, entertainment and dancing. the dress was formal and Tonga, Fiji, Western Samoa, Muscat and Papua New Guinea all showed up in colorful native dress.

After dinner and the performance of skits by each of the twenty sides, the music started and the players and their ladies danced energetically until the wee hours. At one point I can remember seeing Steve Gray, Tommy Smith (U.S.A.) Tomas Peterson, Ernesto Ure (Argentina) and one of the Ella brothers whirling energetically around the floor as part of a huge circle.

During the course of the week the players had gotten to know each other quite well and a tremendous bond of fellowship was created playing against one another in this festive competition.

### Gentlemen

Among other things, the Hong Kong Sevens provided me with my first opportunity to sit down and talk with some of the game's legendary players. I conducted

about rugby in the U.S. as I was to get their opinions.

### Exhibition Match

One would think that after a weekend of spectacular sevens play a fifteen man all-star match would be anti-climatic. But nothing could have been further from the truth. In one of the fastest paced and most spectacular rugby matches I have ever seen, the rest of the world withstood a spirited comeback from a combined England, Scotland, Wales, Canada team to score a thrilling 38-34 victory. The ingredients for such a rugby feast were two teams willing to run the ball and a referee (Mike Hamlyn) whose application of the advantage rule made refereeing an art.

The Rest of the World was captained by Argentina's brilliant flyhalf, Hugo Porta, and contained such players as his countrymen Tomas Peterson and Gabriel Travalgini; Australians Glenn Ella, Mitchell Cox, and Mike O'Connor; Fiji Captain Ratudradra; and Americans Tommy Smith and John Fowler.



Eagle, Denis Shanagher, on the Hong Kong Police launch to Lantau Island.

interviews with captains of four of the world's most prominent teams (Andy Irvine - Scotland, Andy Ripley - Barbarians, Hugo Porta - Argentina and Gary Pearce-Australia) and was truly impressed by the unassuming friendly people they turned out to be. For some reason, I expected the bored, complacent "done it before" attitude we see in publicly prominent U.S. athletes. But these guys, to a man, were gentlemen and were as enthusiastic and full of questions

I saw Smith warming up before the game and since his natural position is flyhalf, a spot Porta had nailed down, I was curious as to where he was playing. He smiled at me and whispered "Scrum half; but don't say anything, I can handle it".

Although Tommy was scrumhalf for the U.S. sevens side, he'd never played the position in a 15-a-side game and here he was making his debut in the world's fastest company. Hugo

(Continued on Page 7)

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Eagle Captain, Steve Gray, exchanging jibes with U.S. Ambassador William Shoemith, after presenting the Ambassador with a tie.





Mitchell Cox, Australia's pocket rocket showed us why the Aussies have dominated the All Blacks of late.

### The Biggest Fastest (Continued from Page 6)

Porta the world's best flyhalf, was inside him and Alan Lawson, with 15 Scottish caps, opposed him.

Well, Smith certainly did "handle it": receiving raves

from the crowd and muted praise from knowledgeable observers. Not to be outdone, John Fowler scored 2 beautiful tries in the 38-34 victory.

The game featured all that is

good about open, attacking rugby. The players were friends, there were no animosities and nothing was at stake. They had also just spent two days playing in the world's greatest sevens competition so the lightning paced game that resulted was pure champagne.

The crowd stood and cheered for five minutes after the game had ended.

#### Significance of the Competition

For the established teams (Barbarians, Fiji, Co-Optimist (Scotland), Australia, Argentina) the competition was a real eye opener. Many of these players had been unaware that other entrants had even heard rugby and all were thrilled that it was played (and played so well) in so many far flung corners of the world

For the newer countries (including the U.S. and Canada) it was an opportunity to show the big boys what they could do. The Hong Kong Sevens will provide a tremendous incentive for the rise of rugby in these countries

For me, seeing sevens played at this high level was like discovering that a beautiful piece of land you own, also has huge reserves of oil beneath the surface. Besides being a tremendous game, sevens has tremendous spectator appeal and could do wonders for the development of our fifteen-a-side play. The tournament was a real education for the U.S. players and I think they came away from Hong Kong with a clear idea of the commitment to handling and fitness necessary to win.

The Hong Kong Sevens has provided the first workable format



Argentina's Hugo Porta showed why many consider him the world's best fly half.

for a true world sevens championship and a forum in which emerging rugby nations can evaluate their progress by testing themselves against the world's best.

For the U.S. it represents a performance yardsticks, an incen-

tive that all U.S. athletes can aim for (should we be lucky enough to be invited back), and a very real reason to gear up our domestic sevens program. It also provides us with a format we should duplicate for the U.S. National Championship

## Hong Kong: An Exotic Setting



The business section of Hong Kong Island as viewed from the harbor.

Hong Kong is a British Crown Colony with a population of approximately 5,000,000 people in an area of 399 square miles. Since 1949, when the Communists took control of mainland China, hundreds of thousands of refugees have crossed the border making Hong Kong's urban areas the most densely populated in the world.

Although over 98% of the population is Chinese, Hong Kong has substantial British and American communities and it seemed that all of them were present, at one time or other, at this competition.

#### Location

Thirteen hours by air from San Francisco, Hong Kong is located in Southeast China on the estuary of the Pearl River, 40 miles east of Macao and 90 miles southeast of Canton. The colony consists of Hong Kong Island (29 sq. miles), Kowloon Peninsula (3.5 sq.

miles) and the New Territories (366 sq. miles), a mountainous mainland area adjoining Kowloon.

With one of the finest natural deepwater harbours in the world, Hong Kong is a free port, a bustling trade center and a shipping and banking emporium - one of the greatest trading and transshipment centers in the Far East. With its abundance of cheap labor, Hong Kong has become a leading light manufacturing center with the textile and garment industry being the colony's largest. Other industries include shipbuilding, food processing and the manufacture of plastics, electrical and electronic equipment, ceramics, furniture, jewelry and toys.

#### Weather

Hong Kong is just within the tropics and for the week we were there the temperature was around 75 and very humid. On my

first day, I ran 5 miles around the Happy Valley Race Track and the cumulative effect of heat, humidity and jet lag saw me retire for the night at 8 p.m.

By pushing the tournament back one month from its customary date in late April, the organizers did manage to avoid the torrential, monsoonal rains which have plagued it the past few years.

#### Good Deals

Tourism is a major source of revenue and by any standards, Hong Kong must be considered a great deal. Hotel rates, even at the finest establishments, are a real bargain by U.S. standards, and meals are so good and inexpensive its almost embarrassing. Dennis Storer and I went to a fine Szechuan restaurant called the Red Pepper and split a bill totalling \$14. On another evening, a friend and I went to Landau's, one of the city's leading restaurants, and eating like there was no tomorrow, couldn't get the bill over \$45.

#### Shopping

As far as shopping is concerned there are tremendous bargains to be found in custom made suits, shoes, fabrics, and jewelry, especially jade. Cameras and stereo equipment are also bargain priced but there is a bewildering array of equipment and it's advisable for people to familiarize themselves with different models and the lowest stateside prices before arrival in order to form a frame of reference.

Transportation is another bargain. You can get nearly any place by taxi on Hong Kong Island for a dollar or two (U.S.) and if you've got more time, you

can take trolleys for \$.06. A ferry ride from the Island to Kowloon takes ten minutes and costs the lordly sum of \$.10.

#### Tours

There's a tremendous amount to see in Hong Kong and perhaps the best way to go about it is to take one or more of the walking tours that the Hong Kong Tourist Association has mapped out. I took two of them. One involved a cable car trip to the top of Victoria Peak (elevation 1850 ft.) and a long, quiet walk around tree shrouded Lugard Road which gives you a tremendous view of the city.

My second excursion was into the bustling Central District near the Hilton. This tour led you thru streets of tiny shops and stalls which specialized in different types of merchandise. One area would be devoted almost entirely to ivory, another to brass, another to jewelry and still

another to silk fabrics. At times I walked for a half-hour or more without seeing another caucasian.

Perhaps the most fascinating spot I visited was the Central Market, a huge square building with an open center which had different types of food and produce on each floor. I wandered into the market after downing an Orange Julius and a couple of hot dogs and for a while I wondered whether I'd hold it down. One floor featured nothing but poultry - live ducks, geese and chickens. A shopper would pick out the unlucky animal they wanted for dinner and the vendor would put it on the chopping block then and there.

Other floors featured incredible varieties of vegetables, live sea food (fish, eels, crustaceans and shellfish) and meats, which, thank God, had been slaughtered elsewhere.



The Hong Kong tram: a bargain at \$.06.