

Hong Kong 7's: Portent of Rugby's Future?

by Ed Hagerty

Hong Kong
March 26-29, 1982

I so thoroughly enjoyed the 1981 Hong Kong 7's that I couldn't imagine this year's event measuring up. But, if anything, the 1982 version of the world 7's championships was a marked improvement.

I knew everything was going to be fine as soon as Pan Am Flight # 5 left N.Y. Not having made plans until the last minute, there was a very good chance of getting bumped, but the gods smiled and I found myself in first class. The extra service and sleeper seats made all the difference in the world on this 20-hour odyssey.

The teams were lodged, once again, in the sumptuous Hong Kong Hilton; fitting headquarters for the best rugby players from 20 different countries. The atmosphere in the lobby was electric as they appeared for breakfast each morning in their distinctive, multi-colored warm-up suits.

Social Event of the Year

The 7's are not just another rugby tournament but the social event of the year for Hong Kong's Commonwealth, European and American populations. Like swallows returning from Capistrano, rugby players from all over the world mysteriously appear in Hong Kong on "urgent business". From 15-20,000 people are in attendance for the full two days of competition, which starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 8.

R.F.U. President Attends

Some of the world's most powerful rugby administrators were also present this year. R.F.U. President David Brooks was on hand; maybe just to see the competition or, possibly, to study the event for background on running a fifteen-a-side world cup which has been rumored for several years. In any event, it must have been gratifying for him to see how far and wide this upper class British sport has spread.

Shiggy Kono

Shiggy Kono, President of the 3700-team Japanese Rugby Union, was also present and his brief words at Sunday's banquet spoke volumes:

"The Hong Kong Sevens were originally designed as a championship for the Asian nations but from the look of things today, there doesn't seem to be much chance of an Asian team winning. We do not, however, regret this state of affairs for a minute. The opportunity to compete is what we prize."

New Zealand

One important participant, New Zealand, was missing. It had



Shiggy Kono

been the custom of the N.Z.R.F.U. to send their county-level champions to Hong Kong but in 1981 the Auckland side was well below the level of the top national teams. The Hong Kong organizers, Jack Johnston and Malcolm Coates-White, informed New Zealand to send a national side or don't come at all.

The New Zealanders missed this year's event but it certainly spurred them into action. The All-Black Selectors used the Inter-

sense, we are no longer operating from a technical disadvantage. And with the ball handling skills nearly all American athletes acquire from basketball, football or baseball, we should actually have a technical advantage. It's really a question of getting the best possible athletes on the field.

Make no mistake about it, the side we fielded this year was good; but it was a picked side, not one people had to play their way onto.

on merit, the United States Sevens Team.

Format

One format would be to stage 2 official tournaments in each of the 4 Territorial Unions (e.g.: E.R.U.-North, E.R.U.-South, Midwest-North, Midwest-South, West-North, West-South, Pacific-North and Pacific-South). Already existent, centrally located tournaments would be designated as official events (e.g. The Rockaway 7's as the E.R.U.-North Tournament) and the competition would be open only to teams or players who live within those specific areas. Each local union would be invited to send a certain number of teams and the competition would culminate in a championship.

All games would be carefully monitored by Territorial selectors and at the end of the competition, a representative team would be chosen from all the participants. They would then meet select sides from the other seven regions for a National Sevens Championship. At the National Championship, selectors would choose the Eagle side to play in Hong Kong.

There are many other variations, I'm sure, but the point is we should choose some system for organizing the U.S. sevens game. It's an exciting game, inexpensive to organize, played at a time of year that doesn't interfere with the 15-man-game, and attractive to sponsors. But most importantly, it's a form of rugby in which the U.S. could be very competitive in a very short time.



The Hong Police band led the team parade on Sunday.

Provincial National Sevens Tournament as a trial vehicle to pick a new national team: The New Zealand Sevens, which contains four or five All-Blacks. In 1983, hopefully, we will see the national sides of both New Zealand and France at the Hong Kong Sevens.

U.S.

As the only unseeded team to reach the quarter finals, the United States put on a tremendous performance. There are a number of us, however, who feel that, with a bit of organization, we could do a lot better.

People are always talking about the "size, speed and athleticism" of American players but that these attributes are cancelled out by our lack of experience and technical refinement. Well, if there's any truth to that old saw, sevens should surely be our game.

Since there aren't any scrums or lineouts, in the traditional

During the summer there's a lot of seven man rugby played in the U.S., but it's largely unstructured, fun rugby with the big names being teams like the "Duck Brothers." If we really want to make our mark, we'll have to take sevens more seriously, and like the New Zealanders and Argentinians, create formal competitions or trials to select,



Eagle Gary Lambert talking with some fans.

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Chinese of all ages performing Tai-Chi at 6 A.M. in the park across the street from the Hilton.

HONG KONG 7's: GAME I

U.S. 40, Singapore 0

MATCH REPORTS

A.W. Scott
PHOTOS
Ed Hagerty

March 27, 1982

The Eagle's first game took place on Saturday at 11 a.m.; the fifth game of the tournament. The U.S. opened the scoring in the second minute from a maul at the Singapore 40 meter line. Gray spun the ball right to Shanagher who drew a defender to spring Helu. Helu made a nice run to the posts and converted making the score 6-0.

In the third minute, the U.S. scored again. Gray intercepted a Singapore pass and spun the ball to the left. Fowler stopped, reversed his field, and flipped the ball to the right creating an overlap for Gray, who then sprung Shanagher. Again the try was scored under the posts and Helu converted for 12-0.

On the following kick-off, Gray caught the ball on the left side of his own 22 meter line. Six pairs of hands later, Purcell managed a brilliant 60 meter burst down the right touch line to the posts. Helu converted. (18-0).

Shanagher took possession on the kickoff, made a probe to the

right, and fed Purcell. Purcell outdistanced his man, flanking him on the outside for a 50 meter score. Helu missed a dropped goal conversion and the score read 22-0 at halftime.

2nd Half

The second half began where the first ended. From the kickoff, the Eagles played keep away, working it first to the left, then to the right. Fowler finally found room to make a half break, linked with Helu, who passed to Shanagher for a 55 meter run to the posts. Helu's conversion hit the crossbar and bounced over (28-0).

On the following kick-off, Shanagher again took possession and ran to the right. Hemmed in he flipped a nifty little reverse pass to Lambert who rambled 30 meters to score under the posts. Helu converted with a drop kick to make the score 34-0.

At this point the U.S. was so dominating that Captain Steve Gray admitted he kicked the next kick-off away so the Eagles would have a chance to play defense. The U.S. held Singapore out and when they regained possession thirty seconds later, they engineered a long keep-away that lasted 60 seconds. Finally Fowler broke up the middle on a 50 meter run and Helu's drop goal conversion brought the final score to 40-0.

This game showed that the U.S. obviously has a better team than the one we fielded last year and



Back [l-r]: Seaber [Mgr.] Lambert, Bateman, Fowler, Shanagher, Finkel, Storer [coach].
Front: Smith, Purcell, Gray [capt.], Helu.

had seemingly learned to play sevens. Their speed, power and handling were evident and, if they could keep their poise, would do real well in the competition.

At the conclusion of this and subsequent games the Eagles presented each opponent with a brass eagle beautifully mounted on a pedestal.

Fowler	U.S.
Shanagher	Gray
Lambert	Helu
Bateman	Purcell

Canada 26, Brunei 6

March 27, 1982

Canada began play at 10:20 A.M.; the second game of the tournament. They were expected to win and played quite well in chalking up their first victory.

The Brunei boys gave them a bit of trouble for the first three minutes, but halfway through the first period Canada's Brooke Smith scored a try after sus-

tained Canadian pressure inside the Brunei 22. Smith got loose possession, found a gap, burst through and scored to the right of the posts. He converted his own try for a 6-0 lead.

Two minutes later, Brunei came back with a try off an intercepted pass inside Canada's 22 to tie the score at 6-6.

2nd Half

In the second half the Canadians began to control the ball and Brunei rarely saw it for the rest of the period. Hirayama scored an unconverted try off a nice lit-



Back [l-r]: De Goede, Hindson [Capt.], Jones. Front: Tucker, Hirayama, Monaghan, Hawthorn.
Missing: Sinnott and Smith.

tle give and go between himself and Evan Jones (10-6).

A minute later Jones got possession of a loose ball and burst 60 meters straight up field but was brought down by a Brunei player 5 meters out. Canadian scrum half Dave Tucker made a great pick-up of the ball which was flung to the side but his try, halfway out from the posts, was not converted (14-6).

One minute later Hirayama got another try. The Canadian Captain, Hindson, began the move-

ment by drawing two men and feeding Hirayama who went 60 meters up the middle. Smith converted to bring the score to 20-6.

One minute after that, Monaghan scored a try from a penalty at mid-field. Hindson went up the middle, broke three tackles, and threw a pass that may have been forward. Nonetheless, Monaghan took the ball at full pace on the left wing and scored near the posts. Smith converted for a 26-6 final margin over Brunei.

The Canadians showed good

pace, good power and good handling. Although they made some mistakes, it was obvious that they were a team to be reckoned with. From this start it seemed likely that they would make their way to the quarter finals of the Cup Competition.

Canada

Hindson	Hirayama
Jones	Smith
DeGoede	Monaghan
Tucker	

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GAME II

**U.S. 4
Fiji 30**

The Eagles' second game came at 3:00 P.M. against Fiji, one of the four seeded teams. Fiji had won this tournament in the past and had a good chance of doing it again.

In the first minute, however, everything went the Americans' way. They exerted heavy pressure, worked the ball toward the Fijian line, and appeared to be well in control of things. They were hammering away at the left corner of the Fijian defense and if they had stayed in the left corner, would probably have gotten a try. Instead, they swung the ball to the right and got bottled up in front of the posts at about the 22 meter line. Fiji won a quick maul, and worked a fast overlap on the left side resulting in a 50 meter dash for a converted try under the posts (6-0).

The Americans held for a while, but in the sixth minute Fiji won a quick line-out at mid-field. They played keep-away drifting to the left of the pitch and finally got an overlap which resulted in a try. They missed an easy conversion attempt leaving the score at 10-0.

The U.S. began to play well in the final minute of the first half. The Eagles were awarded a penalty about 20 meters from the Fijian line.

With the team lining-up to go right, Smith tapped and went left. He made a nice little dab towards the left corner, and flipped a nifty reverse pass to Lambert who bulled his way over between two tacklers; half way between the touch line and posts. Smith missed the conversion and the half ended with the score at 10-4.

2nd Half

The dam broke early in the second half and, unfortunately, went all Fiji's way. The U.S. took a Fijian heel from a scrum, but Fiji pressured and Tommy Smith threw a blind pass to Purcell which was intercepted and run in for an easy try (16-4).

Fiji then won some very scrappy ball that they managed to consolidate from the kickoff. They were hemmed inside their own 22, but interpassed steadily toward the right side, and an 80 meter burst resulted in a very fine try which Fiji converted. (22-4).

The U.S. then tried to get fancy and attempted an unrehearsed scissors kick-off that Smith and Gray cooked up on the spot. Because it was unrehearsed and nobody else knew about it, the thing proved disastrous. Smith lined up to kick left, and instead Gray snuck in and booted the ball to the right. The kickoff went straight into the hands of a Fijian, who dashed up-field between Smith and Heiu for an unconverted try in the corner (26-4).



Eagle Gary Lambert snares a lineout vs. Fiji. Lambert scored the only U.S. try in this game.

Just at the final bell, Gray and Fowler knocked on at midfield, one after the other, and the referee played the advantage. Fiji quickly took the ball and spun it for a try in the right-hand corner to make the final score 30-4.

Fiji, by far the fastest team in the competition, had too much passing skill and poise and were able to handle very well in the tackle. Also, the Eagles seemed a bit intimidated by the Fijian's smothering attack and defense.

U.S.	
Fowler	Gray
Finkel	Heiu
Lambert	Purcell
Smith	

**Canada 20
Hong Kong 6**

Canada's second game, vs Hong Kong, was at 2:20 in the afternoon and the crowd was, naturally, very partisan in favor of the local team. Canada scored a try on the opening kick-off when Brooke Smith recovered the ball and crashed over at the posts. Smith, however, was knocked unconscious when he fell on the ball while scoring and was replaced by Dave Tucker. The try was not converted (4-0).

From that point onward, however, Hong Kong owned most of the first half ball and eventually got a score when Tony Tyler rambled around the left side on an overlap. He made it to the posts, the try was converted, and Hong Kong lead at the half 6-4.

2nd Half

Immediately after the restart, Monaghan outpaced the forward

marking him, went around end, and scored an unconverted try (8-6). From that point on, the game belonged to Canada. They did everything right and Hong Kong never saw the ball.

Canada's third score came when Hirayama broke 3 tackles on a nice individual effort and made it to the line near the left side of the posts. His try was converted by Jamie Hawthorn (14-6).

Nobody scored for a minute or two and then at a ruck near the Hong Kong 22 meter line, Hirayama faked to the open side, dabbed onto the blind, and was able to spring Dave Tucker for a try which Hawthorn converted. (20-6).

This was the first loss for Hong Kong, who were expected to do better, and it eventually relegated them to the plate division.

Canada

Hindson	Smith (Tucker)
Sinnott	Hirayama
DeGoede	Monaghan
Hawthorn	



Canadian Captain Ro Hindson prepares to pass off to teammate Hans DeGoede.

Hong Kong Sevens 1983

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HONG KONG 7'S: GAME III

U.S. 30, Japan 6

The Eagles third match against Japan was crucial because in order to gain promotion to the Cup Division finals, each team needed to win three games out of their preliminary four. Japan, who knocked the U.S. out of the Plate Championship last year, were expected, based on last year's performance, to beat the Eagles. It was a very tense encounter for the Eagles and they played extremely well.

On the opening kickoff, Fowler directed a beautiful tap-down to Finkel. The ball was consolidated and spun to the right. Lambert took a pass from Gray, burst through a hole and touched down to the right of the posts. Smith converted for a quick 6-0 lead.

Things stood still for a few minutes with the U.S. handling well, and after a late tackle on Gray, Smith was wide with a penalty. In the fourth minute, the U.S. blew a try. After winning a scrum and some fine handling, Finkel broke and ran clear. Unfortunately, he was tackled and knocked on 5 meters from the line. Immediately following, though, Purcell scored off a



Eagle Mike Purcell turns the corner on two Japanese defenders and rockets up the sideline for an 80 meter try. The clutching hand produced nothing but Purcell's number.

scrum when he made a nice burst up the middle. Smith converted for 12-0.

In the last minute of the first half, the U.S. got going again. From a side to side movement, Fowler broke down the left side. Gray and Smith were in support and the two interpassed until Fowler came up in support again

to take the final pass for a score under the posts. Smith converted for 18-0.

2nd Half

Japan got back into the match at the start of the second half from a penalty at midfield. They tapped, the second man dummied

both ways and burst up the middle to score a converted try under the posts. That made it 18-6 and still very much a game.

Then the U.S. really went to work. From a line out at their own 5 meter line, Fowler won the ball and spun it out to Purcell. Purcell took off up the sideline and turned the corner on two

Japanese defenders coming at him full tilt; leaving one with nothing but his number. His 80 meter dash ended under the posts. Purcell's try was converted to bring the score to 24-6.

Towards the end of the game, Japan kicked through the U.S. defense. The Eagles, who chased the ball down (and were lucky not to be called for obstruction) then counter-attacked from behind their own 22. The ball was spun to the right for Lambert who made a nice inside burst. Lambert passed to Purcell who passed to Fowler and the big U.C.L.A. medical student outran three men to the posts.

The final score was 30-6 in a very comprehensive U.S. Eagle victory.

In this and other games, most U.S. kicking, both at goal and on kick-offs, was quite poor. The handling and tackling was quite good and scrummaging and lineout work was excellent. There were some judgemental errors (i.e. bad passes, and people being a little too casual), but basically the U.S. was playing very well.

As in the previous year, the Eagles (along with Fiji, Muscat, the Barbarians and Hong Kong) were big favorites of the crowd.

U.S.

	Smith
Fowler	Gray
Finkel	Shanagher
Lambert	Purcell

Canada 42, Indonesia 0

Canada's third game was played at 6:20 P.M. They needed a win here in order to get into the Cup Competition and it turned into an absolute slaughter; Canada winning by a score of 42-0.

Tries came so quickly it was difficult to record details. In the first minute alone Canada scored twice. We know for sure that Monaghan got the first, Hawthorn the second and that both were unconverted (8-0).

In the second minute, Hawthorn dribbled the ball about 30 meters and as he was getting close to the line stabbed the ball into the goal and managed to fall on it for a try. With Hawthorn's conversion that brought the half time score to 14-0.



Canadian flanker Dennis Sinnott broke his leg vs Indonesia. He is helped off the field by Manager Alan Rees.



Scrum-half Dave Tucker leaves two Indonesians in the dust.

2nd Half

In the second half, it became an absolute rout. Jones went the length of the field, down the left touch line, for an unconverted try (18-0). On the following kickoff,

Hirayama made a 60 meter run up the middle for a try which Hawthorn converted (24-0).

Canada repeated the scenario on the next kickoff. Only this time, Hirayama scooted around to the outside to score in the right-hand corner. This try was also converted by Hawthorn bringing the score to 30-0, half-way through the second half.

Canada, then played keep-away for the remainder of the game. Long, side to side passing movements lead to overlaps for speedster Monaghan who notched two more converted tries (42-0). In between these two, Sinnott went off with what was diagnosed as a broken fibula.

The final score, 42-0, turned out to be the second highest point total of the tournament, behind Australia's 52-0 trouncing of this same Indonesian team.

Canada

Hindson	Hirayama
Jones	Hawthorn
Sinnott	Monaghan
Tucker	

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HONG KONG 7's: GAME IV

U.S. 28, Malaysia 10

Hong Kong
March 28, 1982

The final preliminary game was played on Sunday morning at 12:20 and it was critical. A win meant promotion to the Cup Championship, a loss, relegation to the Plate or consolation playoffs.

The Malaysian game was a real U.S. show. On the opening kick-off, Helu moved to the right and passed to Shanagher. Shanagher passed to Purcell who made a long burst and passed back to Helu. Helu hit Fowler who made a fingertip catch and went the last 10 meters for an excellent try. Smith converted and the crowd exploded (6-0).

On the following kick-off, Fowler tapped down to Bateman who dashed 70 meters on a weaving run to the left. Smith missed the conversion and the score stood at 10-0.

Following the kick-off, Fowler moved the ball to the right. Smith dummied, went up the middle 40 meters, and just as he was about to be tackled dummied again and flipped a reverse pass to Finkel for a try on the right side. Smith, who did not have much speed due to an ankle injury, exhibited some excellent handling but missed an easy conversion and the score remained at 14-0.

At that point the U.S. bobbled a kick-off and Malaysia came

back. Malaysia pressed, gained possession, ran the ball and although the Malaysian winger was tackled on the line, the try was awarded. With the conversion, the score stood at 14-6.

From a subsequent scrum at midfield, the Malaysian scrum half dummied left and set out for the line. Smith and Helu caught him at the line but again a try was awarded. The score was now 14-10 and all of a sudden it was a very tense game for the U.S. The Eagle defense during the first half was tentative and very sloppy and the U.S. paid for it.

2nd Half

In the opening moments of the second half, Bateman made a nice break at midfield and passed to Helu for a short burst. Helu got the ball back to Bateman who drew the last man and gave to Purcell for a try to the right of the posts. Smith again missed the conversion and the score was 18-10.

About a minute later Fowler tipped a line out ball to Bateman. Bateman passed to Smith and Smith just plain stopped when he had an overlap going outside. He worked the ball to the left, however, where the 3-2 overlap still stood, and Helu made good on a 50 meter run up the touch line. Smith finally converted and the score was 24-10.

Late in the game, Shanagher and Finkel combined for a score off a scrum at midfield. Shanagher broke, froze the last

man and slipped to Finkel. It was a difficult pass but Finkel made a good catch and an excellent run. He scored halfway between the posts and touch. Smith again missed the conversion bringing the final score to 28-10.

Had Smith brought his kicking

boots, it could have been another 40 point performance.

With this victory, the U.S. qualified to play in the Cup Championship, an elite eight team tournament to determine the winner of the competition. The U.S. was in some very strong

company: Australia, the Barbarians, the Scottish Borders, Canada, Argentina, Fiji and Tonga. U.S.

Fowler	Bateman
Shanagher	Smith
Finkel	Helu
	Purcell



Eagle Roy Helu closes on a Malaysian ball carrier.

Canada 0 Australia 36

Hong Kong
March 28, 1982

After three easy games against Brunei, Hong Kong and Indonesia, Canada came crashing back to earth at 11:40 Sunday morning when they came up against the Australians.

Canada had only 7 men fit enough to play and, unlike some other teams, didn't even have an outside reserve lined up. For some reason, after playing in red on the previous day, Canada elected to play in white. If they have any superstitions perhaps it's something to avoid next year.

Right from the start Canada were unlucky. Their kickoff didn't go the required 10 meters and the Canadians hesitated while the ref played the advantage. The Aussies pressured with the ball and Glen Ella was able to get around Hindson. At the end of a long run he fed Pearse for the try and Mark Ella converted (6-0).

Canada tightened up momentarily. In the third minute, one of the Ella brothers kicked through the Canadian defense and a 60 meter foot race was on. Canada's Monaghan managed to outrun Brendan Moon and saved a try by touching down in goal.

At the end of the third minute, however, an overlap developed and Michael O'Connor made a long break up the left touchline for an unconverted try (10-0).

Two minutes later Canada was pressuring deep in Australian territory and the Aussies were going backwards with the ball. Lucas was forced into making a



Ro Hindson attempts to turn the corner as one of the Ella's defends. Gary Hirayama & Dave Tucker look on.

bad pass, but Mark Ella managed to regain possession and feed his brother, Glen. Glen slipped the ball to Moon on the overlap and the try was scored half-way between the posts and touch line. Mark Ella hit the upright on his conversion and the half time score was 14-0. It's safe to say

that Australia owned the game by this time.

2nd Half

Australia kicked deep to open the second half and Canada's DeGoede was penalised for going over the top of a ruck. Rather

than kick for points Glen Ella tapped the ball, dummied, and scored to the right of the posts. His brother Mark converted (20-0).

Canada again tightened for a bit, but then Lucas broke a couple of tackles at midfield, spun away from Canadian defenders and

made a nice run down the left touch line. He fended off two more players and rolled into the end zone for a try near the posts. O'Connor took over the kicking chores and brought the score to 26-0.

Shortly thereafter O'Connor, himself, made a break down the left touch line. He threw two nice moves to get past defenders and in-passed to Moon who beat the last defender. O'Connor converted (30-0).

Canada really didn't look even close to scoring at this point; they just couldn't keep the ball.

Right at the end of the game, Mark Ella tapped from a penalty inside his own half. Trapped with the ball he made an unbelievable pass to his brother Glen coming up in support. Glen Ella slipped the ball off to Moon for a long run and try which was converted by O'Connor (36-0).

Australia really showed all their stuff in this game. It was the first time they met a decent opponent and they saved up all their artillery for Canada.

Canada, on the other hand, seemed to be asleep; awed by the famous Aussies. It was a shame the score was so lopsided because the Canadians are a better team than the score indicated.

Though devastated by Australia, Canada, with a 3-1 record in Pool B, still advanced to the quarter finals of the Cup Competition.

Canada	Australia
DeGoede	Pearse
Jones	Maxwell
Hindson	Lucas
Tucker	Moon
Hirayama	O'Connor
Monaghan	G. Ella
Hawthorn	M. Ella

U.S. 4, Scottish 14

The Eagles drew the Scottish Borders (Scotland) as first round opponents in the Cup Championship and the Scots could have been beaten had the Eagles played slightly better. As it stood the game was a good one with the crowd very much behind the Eagles.

Curiously, the U.S. picked probably their slowest team, (leaving out Bateman and Helu) something of a mistake. Smith was injured, Gray was tired and the forwards had played a lot of games; as had Purcell.

The U.S. looked good in the opening moments and very nearly got a try when Purcell was caught just three meters from the line by Baird. Shortly after that, Smith attempted a 40 meter penalty kick which was lustily booed by the crowd. Had they attempted to run at that point they may have gotten a try and ended up with 6 points and a lot of momentum. As it was, Smith wasn't even close.

Early action featured some superb passing movements and long runs complemented by great tackling on both sides. Purcell had a particularly good burst that looked like a try but that was stopped by the Scottish cover. Renwick was also stopped by ferocious U.S. pursuit.

The Scottish Borders finally got on the board when Rutherford burrowed into the left corner



Scotland's most capped center Jim Renwick, takes a pass from Keith Robertson as Denis Shanagher pressures.

after a great deal of interpassing had moved the ball slowly upfield. The conversion was missed by Renwick. (The most capped Scottish center of all time) and half-time score was 4-0.

Just before the end of the first half, the crowd really got behind the U.S., with much of the crowd shouting "come on Eagles, come on Eagles"; a very inspiring tribute.

2nd Half

In the second half the U.S. again started strong. Smith, Finkel and Fowler combined for a near try that was knocked on in a tackle 10 meters from the line. Then, however, Scotland broke it open. Baird got possession, made a nice long run and fed Robertson who tripped with the line at his mercy. Scotland struck immediately thereafter, however.

From a lineout, the ball was worked to the middle of a pitch for Renwick to find a gap and make his way around Lambert. Renwick converted from in front of the posts and the score was 10-0.

Again, the crowd took up the chant "come on Eagles" and the U.S. responded. First came Purcell with a very near try on a 40 meter run. Purcell, however,

couldn't decide how to break past the last man and was caught by the pursuit.

Then in the last minute Fowler made a deep thrust. No one was in support and there was only one U.S. player anywhere near him. But the ball was miraculously thrown back to Gray who was standing with four other Eagles 30 meters away. Being out of position they had a huge overlap and Gray fed Finkel for a long run up the middle and a try. Sadly for the U.S., the conversion was missed and the score was 10-4 with 40 seconds left to play.

Scotland iced their victory when Renwick set up and fed Paxton for a long run which resulted in a try. Paxton's try was not converted and the final score was 14-4.

It was a very exciting game, well appreciated and applauded by the crowd. The U.S. was well represented by their players in this game, as in all the others. It was a tough way to go out, but they lost to a team that eventually went on to the finals. The Borders had 6 internationals on the side (Renwick, Rutherford, Paxton, Robertson, Baird and White) and were an absolutely super team who beat the Barbarians in one of the competition's most exciting matches.

U.S.	Scotland
Fowler	Paxton
Finkel	Callendar
Lambert	White
Smith	Baird
Gray	Rutherford
Shanagher	Renwick
Purcell	Robertson

Canada 6, Barbarians 36

Though trounced (36-0) by the Aussies in an inconsequential match, Canada's real Waterloo came in the Cup quarter final against the Barbarians.

In the first minute of play Canada was robbed. Having possession and exerting heavy pressure on the Barbarians, Tucker made a stab toward the left corner. He back-handed the ball to Hindson just before he (Tucker) went out of bounds and Hindson scored the try. The touch judge, unfortunately, threw his flag up. He was watching Tucker's feet and missed the pass a split second before Tucker stepped out of bounds.

It was unfortunate because from a line out, 8 or 9 meters from the Barbarian line, the Barbarians launched a long scoring movement. They won the lineout and spun the ball to Welsh winger Clive Rees who motored 90 meters for the score. Cusworth converted giving the Barbarians a 6-0 lead.

In very quick succession, Melville scored on a run down the left side and Rees scored again after taking a great pass from England and British Lion center, Clive Woodward. England flyhalf, Les Cusworth converted both tries and at halftime Canada was out of range (18-0).

2nd Half

Fortunately, Canada won a lineout early in the second half when DeGoede tapped the ball down and it was spun out to the left for Hirayama. Hirayama kicked the ball ahead and Mona-

ghan once again showed his speed, beating Woodward in a 50 meter race to touch down in the back of in-goal. Hawthorn converted and it was 18-6.

Then it was Barbarian Nigel Melville's turn. He made a great individual effort from broken play to score on a weaving 40 meter dash; beating 2 or 3 men with individual moves. Woodward converted (24-6).

Two more tries came to the Barbarians. England and British Lion hooker Peter Wheeler got the first after Woodward was tackled behind his own 22. Wheeler hacked the ball past DeGoede and managed to get behind the entire Canadian defense. He kicked it again and the second kick took a bounce that came right up into his hands. Wheeler made a nice long run for a man his size and Cusworth converted for 30-6.

The final try of the game came when Wales and Pontypool #3, Eddie Butler made a great pass at Canada's 22-meter line to spring Melville for a try. Cusworth converted bringing the final score to 36-6.

It's hard to evaluate Canada's performance because their first three opponents were so easy and the second two so difficult. But like the U.S. they finished with a winning record of 3 wins and 2 losses. They played attractive, gutsy sevens and, like the Eagles, were a credit to their country. They were not, however, the crowd favorites the Eagles were.

One other interesting thing did happen. The Barbarian manager, Geoff Windsor-Lewis, invited Canadian Captain Ro Hindson to stand as a reserve for the Barbarians in their semi-final game



Canada's Paul Monaghan [1] and Jamie Hawthorn combine to bring down England and British Lion center, Clive Woodward.

against the Scottish Borders. This gesture was taken by Hindson and other North American players as a great honor.

Afterwards, however, Canadian Manager Alan Rees expressed disappointment that the Barbarians made no mention of

Hindson's involvement, and offered no token (jersey, tie, pin) of appreciation. Hindson was treated very casually and there was none of the promised communication from the Barbarian committee after the game or after the tournament dinner.

Canada	Barbarians
Hindson	O'Driscoll
Jones	Wheeler
DeGoede	Jones
Tucker	Melville
Hirayama	Cusworth
Hawthorn	Woodward
Monaghan	Rees

HONG KONG 7's: CHAMPIONSHIP

Australia: World 7's Champions

HongKong
March 28, 1982

Semi-Finals

The semi-final games were, in our opinion, the best games of the competition and the best sevens games the staff of Rugby (and many other people) had ever witnessed.

In the first semi-final the Scottish Border Club (read Scotland) beat the Barbarians 18-12 in a game that flowed and was tense with excitement from beginning to end.

The second match, between Australia and Fiji, was one of the best sevens matches played anywhere at anytime; an unbelievably hard, fast, tense contest that Australia was fortunate to win in overtime by a score of 10-6. It was a brilliant game pitting Fiji's speed, defense, and blanket coverage against Australia's skill, teamwork, fitness and tenacity.

Fiji took the lead on a brilliant try in the last 90 seconds. Australia scored on the game's last possession and converted from a very difficult angle to send the game into overtime. A wonderful cross kick in Fiji's end from Australia's Lucas to Mark Ella brought the brilliant try which sealed victory for Australia.

Both games were truly wonderful; perfect games to convince unbelievers of the merit of this rugby "art form" or to introduce newcomers interested in learning sevens.

Australia 18, Scottish Borders 14

Both Australia and the Scottish Border club were loaded with internationals. The Scottish team fielded 5 internationals and Australia included 6 full-blown Wallabys for the final. Even after the extraordinary semi-finals, the Championship was quite an amazing game.

On the opening kickoff Scotland took possession, spun the ball right, where Baird made a great break and tremendous run down the right touch line. He scored



A packed house at the Hong Kong Government Stadium urges Australia & Scotland on. Most people had been on hand since 11 AM.

just adjacent to the posts on the right hand side and Renwick converted to bring the score to 6-0 after 15 seconds of play.

In the second minute Australia equalized matters. From a line out inside the Scottish 22, Australia controlled the ball and Glen Ella made a dab to the left hand corner. He then stopped and fed the ball to Pearse in support who weaved his way to the posts. Mark Ella converted (6-6).

Scotland then got a very nice try from broken play at the Australian 22 meter line. The ball was spun left for Baird to make a tearing run down the left touch line and a very fine try in the corner. Renwick's conversion attempt hit the upright and the score was 10-6.

Towards the end of the half, Australia's Lucas was caught in possession at midfield, but managed to slip the ball to Mark Ella. The ball went from Ella to Maxwell to Glen Ella who engineered a superb pass to O'Connor. O'Connor made a 30

meter dash to the posts and Mark Ella converted for a 12-10 half-time margin.

Second Half

In the second period the Australians began to consolidate and maintain possession; controlling the ball for much of the period. Halfway through the period, from a scrum just inside midfield, Mark Ella dummied to his left, broke a tackle, and fed Maxwell for a nice run down the right touch line. Maxwell scored just inside touch and Mark Ella made a great conversion from near the right touch line (18-10).

Without that conversion, the game was very tieable and the Scottish did manage a very fine try in the final minute. From a penalty near the Aussie line, the ball was worked blind and John Rutherford ran it over in the corner. Renwick was unable to convert and the final bell sounded with Australia on top 18-14.

was a very, very happy occasion and a fitting climax to a super weekend.

M.V.P.

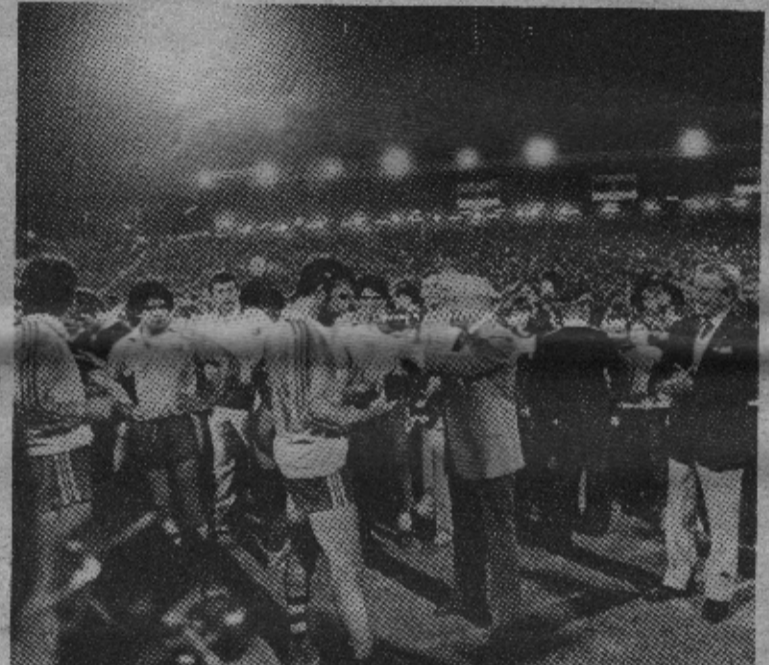
M.V.P. of the Hong Kong Sevens was Australian Captain John Maxwell; the only member of the championship team who was not an international.

Plate Championship

Korea won the Plate Championship in their first ever victory over Asian power Japan. It wasn't just a victory but an absolute slaughter (32-6) and the Koreans were the happiest people in Hong Kong for some time thereafter. Korea beat Samoa 24-6 and Japan topped Hong Kong 16-6 to get to the Plate Championship.

Tonga

Tonga fielded a very impressive team with super games vs the Scottish Borders (10-9) and



Australian Captain John Maxwell accepts the Cup as the crowd cheers. Maxwell was also named M.V.P.

Scottish Borders
Paxton
Callandar
White
Hogarth
Rutherford
Renwick
Baird

Australia
Pearse
Maxwell
Lucas
Ella, G.
Ella, M.
O'Connor
Moon

Fiji (8-4). Against Scotland, Tonga led 9-0 and then 9-6 with two minutes to go. But Scotland blocked a clearing kick and fell on it in-goal to come back from what would have been a tremendous upset (10-9).

Muscat

Muscat (from Oman) were a very entertaining and well organized team who performed well both on and off the field. Memorable were their gritty matches against both Hong Kong and the Barbarians. Perhaps even more than Fiji, the men from Muscat, in their Arabic numbered jerseys, were the crowd's sentimental favorites.

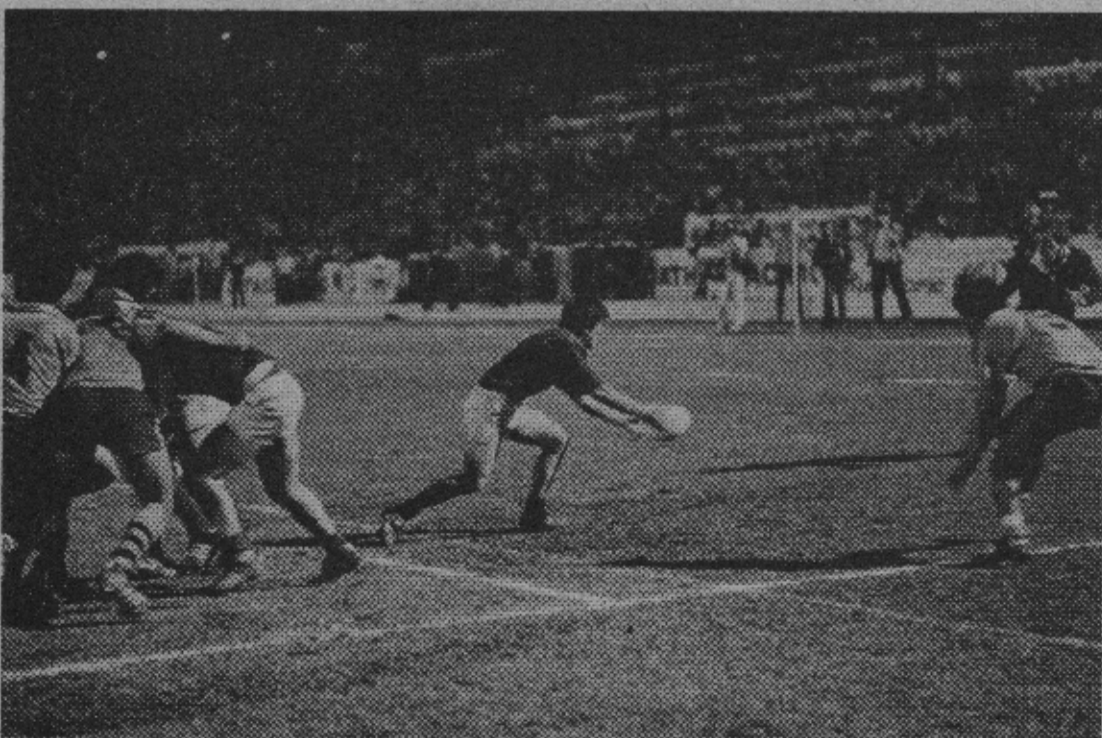
Samoa

On a negative note, all the Samoan matches, with the exception of Indonesia & Korea, were rough bruising affairs, with late hits and even a few elbows & punches. Against Indonesia, they taunted their opponents as they ran in a score. After the Puma game, Samoan officials were told to clean up their act or be sent home and never be invited back.

Booing

The 18-14 result was a fair reflection of the proceedings. Australia had played well throughout the tournament, while the Borders had been erratic. Furthermore, the Australians, because of a problem they had in a match against Fiji several years before, were booed by the Hong Kong crowd every time they took the field. Their victory was, thus, a bit of social justice.

Talking with the Wallaby coach, we found the Australians perplexed by the booing and doing everything they could to counteract it; even having the players sit in stands accessible to the fans. After the match, though, the Australians received a standing ovation as they did a victory lap around the field accompanied by hundreds of joyous children. It



Hogarth has the ball out to Rutherford for Scotland's final try. It was too little, too late.