

The Hong Kong 7's

by Thomas Link

Hong Kong
March 26-27, 1983

On my first assignment for **Rugby**, I anxiously boarded Pan Am flight 201 in New York, bound for the 1983 Hong Kong Sevens. My standby ticket allowed me to be upgraded to first class, where the extra room and service made this 20-hour journey a pleasure.

Arriving at the Kai Tak International Airport, I was whisked to the Hong Kong Hilton in a red Mercedes driving on the "wrong" side of the road. I felt a long way from New York but was greeted by Simon and Garfunkel's Central Park Concert on television.

All of the teams and the press were housed at the luxurious, 26-story Hong Kong Hilton, located in the central district of Hong Kong Island with a panoramic view of the famous Harbor. Of the many services the Hilton provides for its guests, the players paid particular attention to the Turkish and Finnish saunas and the expert massage services.

Players in their multi-colored track suits filled the Hilton's Golden Lotus Dining Room each morning for a sumptuous buffet of delicious food. The huge quantities of freshly prepared eggs, sausage, bacon, croissants and melon prompted one Eagle to comment, "I've had dreams about this breakfast!"

Much conversation in the hotel lobby centered around the weather. Monsoon rains had been drenching the city for weeks, making March Hong Kong's wettest month since 1884. Nevertheless the show went on. "Nineteen teams have come from all over the world to play here," Hong Kong RFU chairman Jack Johnston explained, the day before kickoff. "The pitch looks good for all the rain we've had and we will play tomorrow."

The rain continued off and on during the two days of competition, turning the recently returned pitch into a quagmire. Referee of the final, England's Roger Parker commented, "I've reffed in mud before, but that was like running through bloody porridge."

The weather didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the spectators. The covered stands on either side of Hong Kong's Government Stadium were filled to capacity from 10 am to 8 pm the days of the competition.

**Tokkie Smith/
 Chris Wynne Potts**

In the stands were Hong Kong international forward Chris Wynne Potts and Tokkie Smith, the man who helped give birth to the Hong Kong Sevens and ran the event during its first difficult years. Last year Smith had a highly successful private mini-tour of South Africa with a multi-racial team made up of players from Tonga, Samoa, America, Canada and Chris Wynne Potts of Hong Kong.

But instead of earning praise



The American Eagles (left) struggle in the mud against the Scottish Border Club. Torrential rains made March Hong Kong's wettest month in almost 100 years. (Photo-Link)

for helping lower the fences which separate races in South Africa, the men have reaped condemnation from the Hong Kong RFU.

"I got sacked, it's that simple," Smith said in a candid interview. "But the real shame is for this chap. Chris would've been playing for Hong Kong this weekend."

Barbarians and All Blacks
 More noticeably, Argentina and the Barbarians were also absent from the tournament. The Barbarians, winners in 1981, were absent because they fielded a full XV against Scotland the same weekend.

This same match deprived the Scottish Border Club of the big name internationals who had lead them to 1982's final where they were narrowly defeated by Australia 18-14.

The 1983 field, however, did include the New Zealand All-Blacks. Chastened by not being invited to last year's tournament, New Zealand abandoned their policy of sending lower level sides and was represented by a national team.

The inclusion of the All-Blacks with the favored Australians and powerful Fijians, promised to make the 1983 Sevens a most interesting contest in what has to be one of the world's most interesting cities.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is an amazing integration of the Far East and the Western World. The 400 square mile British-run territory in the southeast corner of China ranks among the world's 20 top traders and possesses a rhythm that can be both exciting and exhausting.

The mystic oriental charm of the city has somehow been preserved among the skyscrapers and bustling streets. Just minutes by bus from the business district lies Aberdeen Harbor, a conglomeration of sampans, junks, and trawlers which house over 33,000 floating inhabitants. In contrast, across the bay on the Kowloon Peninsula is the modern shopping complex called Harbor Town, a typically American phenomenon complete with fast food and ice cream establishments as well as a sportswear outlet that sells nothing without a UCLA logo.

Shopping in Hong Kong, the Far East's most extensive duty free emporium, always ranks high on the priority of visitors, as it did with the visiting rugby players.

Visitors can find bargains on everything from jade to silk to camera equipment, mostly on the Kowloon Peninsula where one is free to haggle over prices with the merchants.

I spent a most amusing rainy afternoon shopping with several of the American Eagles. We came home a satisfied group with several watches, diamond earrings, kimonos, cameras, and Walkman stereos. The haggling over prices was half the fun of shopping and all buyers invariably asked each other: "Think he would've gone lower?"

The Eagles took me under their wing so to speak, and I attended their reception at the American Club, the tournament banquet, and other official engagements.

Wanchai

On Saturday night after the Eagles had gone in under curfew, I decided to do a little exploring

on my own. I bought a stick of freshly cut sugar cane from a street vendor and began walking. About a mile or two east of the hotel I came to vibrant neighborhood known as Wanchai.

A tour book had described Wanchai as the "nightclub strip and red light district heavily patronized by American servicemen during the Vietnam War years." The main strip was two long rows of clubs, each with hanging neon signs and names like "Pussycat" pulsating over the oily street.

It was not very busy for a Saturday night, though, and although I did see a few American servicemen I had the feeling I was looking at the remnants of an era that had passed. I was soon lured by the irresistible smell of food into one of Wanchai's many alleys. *Dai Pai Dongs* (street food stalls) flourished in these alleys, and the cast-iron sidewalk cafe tables that surrounded the food booths were filled with oriental men and women well into the early morning hours.

I took my place on a too-short

bamboo stool in front of the food stall. A wok on a single gas burner sat just on the inside of a narrow wooden counter. The Chinese chef in a soiled white apron flashed a toothless grin and asked me something in Cantonese. I shrugged and responded in English. He shrugged back and charades began.

I pointed to some shrimp-like things that were sitting in a bowl near the counter. He threw them into the wok. I pointed to some sprouts. Into the wok. Some bamboo shoots. Water chestnuts. Several things I didn't recognize. Into the wok.

The chef doused the combination with water and I crouched on my stool as steam poured out the window and over my head. When I came up, he'd served the stir-fry in a wooden bowl with chopsticks. He made a drinking motion so I nodded. A glass of delicious chilled Chinese wine was placed before me. As I struggled with my chopsticks, I looked both up and down the crowded alley.

There was not another caucasian in sight.

W e l c o m e !
Jean-Carroll Donald Browder
 Godson of
 Trudy and Don Morrison
 Son of
 Diane and Ed Browder
 March 20, 1983

Aussies Retain 7's Crown

The magnificent Australian Wallabies fully lived up to their pre-tournament favorite tag and were head and shoulders above their opponents during the two-day tournament.

Combining pace, power, sevens technique and superb team discipline, the defending champions surged to their second successive title and third outright win, equalling Fiji's record in the Hong Kong event.

Possibly the brightest star for the Aussies was 20-year old winger David Campese. He was one of the fastest players on the pitch and uses a crowd-pleasing leg kick, "the Campese shuffle," when he shifts from fast to blazing, leaving would-be tacklers snapping at his heels. Add to this his accurate goal kicking and solid defense and you have an individual who will certainly play an important role in future Wallaby teams.

Quarter-Finals

While favored Fiji easily beat Japan 20-0 and the Scottish Borders clipped the wings of the American Eagles 12-0, the big upset of the day was the defeat of the New Zealand All-Blacks at the hands of the rugged Western Samoans, 4-0.

The All-Blacks first appearance in the Hong Kong Sevens came to an end in the last second of this bruising forward encounter when Western Samoan Folani scored the only try.

In other quarter-final action, a scrappy Tonga side roared into a shock lead over Australia when Tonga's Laulau crashtackled Mark Ella then picked the ball up and dove for the try, which Leha converted. Australia's Chris Roche added a try before the half, but Tonga and the crowd were enjoying an upset in the making.

Roche scored again but it took a brilliant run by winger Brendan Moon to put the game away for the Wallabies 12-6. Moon left three would-be tacklers in the mud, in what had to be one of the most spectacular runs of the championship round.

Semi-Finals

The Australians had an easier time with Samoa, as Lucas, Moon and Campese scored for a 16-0 victory.

Top seeds Fiji and the Scottish Border Club met in the other semi-final showdown. The taller, swifter Fijians struck quickly for two tries, one on a Wagaliti chip ahead that he touched down himself and the other by Captain Labalaba off a nice dummy by Wagaliti. Scottish stand-off Andrew Ker slipped in from a 5 yard scrum to close Fiji's lead to 10-4 at the half.

Fiji took the wind out of Scotland when Labalaba took the second half kickoff and raced unopposed to the corner for a try. Borderer scrumhalf, Hogarth, later dove in for a try, but it was too little, too late. Fiji 14-Borders 8.

Australia 14, Fiji 4

The final got off to a fierce start with Fijian hooker Toga taking a wild swing at an Australian player after Fiji's Labalaba had kicked to touch.



Australia scrumhalf Glen Ella congratulates muddied teammate after defeating Fiji 14-4 in the final. (Photo-Link)

Australia replied with a try by Brendan Moon on a lofted pass from Campese. Campese's conversion attempt bounced off the post. Australia 4-0.

The Wallabies suffered a blow midway through the half when scrumhalf Mark Ella was taken off after a vicious tackle by Labalaba. Ella was replaced by

Qele Ratu, former Fiji international who played with Fiji's Hong Kong Sevens champions in 1977 and 1978.

Australia kept possession, patiently looking for the break in Fiji's tenacious defense. Campese was finally let loose up the middle for a try just before the half and the young speedster

added the conversion for a 10-0 Australia lead.

Campese accounted for 68 of his teams points, tallying 12 tries.

2nd Half

The Australian cover defense was effective and their fit forwards seemed always first to the loose ball. Campese brought the crowd alive with his patented shuffle down the sideline, barely being knocked into touch by the hustling Fiji winger Senivalati Laulau.

Fiji radically changed strategy and began kicking through. Fiji had lost the composure that had got them to the final, and their kicks simply turned over possession to the covering Aussies. Fiji became noticeably frantic but did manage to close the gap with a well-executed overload that found Toga touching down in the corner for the try.

Australia ended it to the roar of the crowd when Brendan Moon gathered another unwise Fiji kick and scored in the corner, giving Australia their second Hong Kong Sevens championship 14-4.

Australia	Fiji
Maxwell	Wagaliti
Lucas	Toga
Pearse	Gutgutuwai
G. Ella	Koroduadua
M. Ella*	Labalaba
Moon	Manaseitaua
Campese	Laulau
* replaced by Ratu	

Referee - Roger Parker-England

From Boos to Cheers
Throughout the tournament, Australia was greeted with boos from the crowd. Now more a tradition than genuine resentment, the booing is said to have started several years ago because of an incident during a match with Fiji.

After their convincing final victory over Fiji this year, however, the team was greeted on the field by hundreds of joyous children, then given a standing ovation as the mud-covered victors took their victory lap around the field.

Plate Competition

South Korea repeated as Plate Competition Champions with a sound thrashing of Canada in the final 30-6 (see account page 6). Korea, who recently dethroned Japan after thirteen years of Asian RFU XV's supremacy, defeated Papua New Guinea 4-0 and Solomon Islands 36-0 to advance to the final. Canada beat Bahrain 14-4 and Hong Kong 8-4 in overtime to gain the final.

M.V.P.

Song-Youn Ho of Korea was named most valuable player of the Hong Kong Sevens. The long-haired center always came through with the big play for Korea on their way to repeat as 1983 Plate Champions much in the same way he kicked a drop goal sixteen minutes into overtime to defeat Japan in the Asian RFU championship last November.

Soloman Islands

The Soloman Islands squad made it to the semi-finals of the Plate Competition on their very first visit to the Hong Kong Sevens. This colorful, determined team, some of whom, reportedly, had never seen beds before, immediately became a crowd favorite. After being humiliated by Korea in the Plate Competition (36-0) they did an honor lap in appreciation of the fan support, who in turn gave them a standing ovation in the true spirit of the game.

Canadian Results:

GAME I:

Canada 28, Papua N.G.0

One of eight seeds in the twenty team field, Canada had come to Hong Kong loaded with national side players.

The Canadians drew first blood quickly against Papua New Guinea. Flyhalf John Billingsley jarred the ball loose on a tackle on Papua's 10 yard line and Flanker Jim Donaldson was right there to take it in for the try. Billingsley converted.

Several minutes later, with Canada on the attack again, scrumhalf Ian MacMillan went blindside for a 20 yard try, putting Canada ahead 10-0 at the half.

2nd Half

Canada kept possession of the ball and managed some fine ball-handling in spite of the wet conditions. On a looping play in which five Canadians handled the ball, John Lecky finally put Spence McTavish away for a try in the corner.

It was then the pack's turn. When McTavish found pressure in the centers, he wisely brought



The Canada 1983 Hong Kong 7's team: (standing L to R) Wyatt, Colvin, Hindson, Donaldson, McTavish (capt.). (kneeling) Lecky, MacMillan, Sinnott, Billingsley. (Photo-Link)

it back to 230 lb Ro Hindson, who bulled over from 10 yards out.

Canada's final try started with a MacMillan kick which he retrieved and passed to flanker Dennis Sinnott. Sinnott then gave to the looping MacMillan

who finally sprung Jim Donaldson to score under the posts. Billingsley converted four of five tries, giving Canada an impressive first win over Papua New Guinea 28-0.

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Canada	Papua New Guinea
Sinnott	Bingeding
Hindson	Maira
Donaldson	Koi
MacMillan	Williams
Billingsley	Takavis
McTavish	Sena
Lecky	Witchurch

GAME II: W. Samoa 16, Canada 0

In their second contest Canada faced Western Samoa, an unseeded surprise who later upset the powerful New Zealand All-Blacks. The smaller, quicker Samoans, like the Koreans against the Eagles, knew how to use the sloppy conditions to their advantage against larger, stronger sides.

Canada came out tackling hard and held possession for the first few minutes. From a loose ball, however, the aggressive Samoans worked an overload that Captain Taufusi Salesa finally touched down in the corner.

Canada was having problems handling the muddy ball. They had a chance to tie it up but Lecky dropped McTavish's pass with an open play down the touchline.

Just before the half ended Western Samoa kicked through Canada's defense, an offensive tactic that the smaller, faster teams had been using successfully all day. This time was no exception, as Tini Mavaega slid into the ball in goal for the try. Salesi connected, and W. Samoa led 10-0 at the half.

2nd Half

Canada won their share of the ball in the second half, but was unable to penetrate the swarming Samoan defense.

Pati Maligi found a gap in Canada's defense, however, and after breaking Hindson's tackle scored Samoa's third and final try. Salesi converted, giving W. Samoa 16 to Canada's 0.

Compared to Canada's encouraging performance against Papua New Guinea, their match against W. Samoa was disappointing. "They were quicker to the breakdowns than we were," Flyhalf Billingsley said. "They scored on our mistakes."

Canada	Western Samoa
Sinnott	Tupvola
Hindson	Sasi
Donaldson	Lolani
MacMillan	Maligi
Billingsley	Salesa
McTavish	Fong
Lecky	Mavaega

GAME III: Scotland 14, Canada 0

For the first four minutes of the Scottish Borders match, Canada held possession but, unfortunately, were not able to score. Had they been able to punch one in, Canada may have received a much needed lift in spirit.

A penalty finally turned possession over to Scotland, who drove down to Canada's 2 yard line where they were stopped. The Borders controlled the ruck as they had done so well all day, and scored on an overload to Eric Paxton.

2nd Half

Down 4-0 at the half, the Canadians were well within reach of victory. The Borders poise and control, however, was the difference in this match.

Scotland was awarded a penalty on Canada's 22. Stand-off Andrew Ker ran right at his man, then put up a perfect pop-kick which Paxton corralled for



Canada's Ro Hindson and Jim Donaldson await throw-in vs. Papua New Guinea. (Photo-Link)

his second try.

Canada then won some ball around mid-field but threw a bad pass that Border Forward Derek White tipped then caught and raced 50 yards for the try. Bob Hogarth converted to give the Borders a 14-0 win.

Canada	Scottish Borders
Mindson	Paxton
Colvin	Callander
Donaldson	White
MacMillan	Hogarth
Billingsley	Ker
McTavish	Murray
Wyatt	Roy

GAME IV: Canada 26, Sri Lanka 0

Canada's first match on Sunday was against a skinny Sri Lanka side.

Winger Mark Wyatt got Canada on the board in the first minute as the swift British Columbia junior found a gap and sped 50 yards for a try.

It was then McTavish's turn, as he delivered a perfect grubber, went down on it, then flipped the ball up to flanker Alex Colvin for the try. Wyatt converted.

Near the end of the half Canada struck again when center John Lecky fed Spence McTavish who broke two tackles to score. Wyatt added the two and Canada led at the half 16-0.

2nd Half

Midway through the second half Dennis Sinnott created a gap in the Sri Lankan defense and fed Lecky for a 20 yard try in the corner. Wyatt again converted.

During the last minute, Mark Wyatt kicked through, recovered, fought his way to the five, then made an easy toss to Jim Donaldson who went in untouched. Final: Canada 26, Sri Lanka 0.

Western Samoa and the Scottish Border Club were the high scorers in Canada's pool, thereby relegating Canada to the Plate Competition. Canada had been somewhat disappointing on Saturday, but with a fine showing versus Sri Lanka, were favorites in the play for the Plate.

Canada	Sri Lanka
Sinnott	Abdeen
Colvin	Epparachchi
Donaldson	de Silva
MacMillan	Dharmadasa

McTavish	Guneratna
Lecky	Jayasinghe
Wyatt	Sitisa

GAME V: Canada 14, Bahrain 4

Canada got off to a flying start against Bahrain, their first opponent in Plate competition by driving to their opponents 25, where they were awarded a penalty. Wyatt narrowly missed the kick, and Bahrain counterattacked. Bahrain's captain Bruce Collins broke free and would have scored except for a diving tackle by Wyatt on Canada's 5 yard line. Mindson won the ensuing lineout for Canada but Billingsley's kick was blocked and touched down by Bahrain's Collins, giving Bahrain a 4-0 lead.

The match progressed up and down the pitch at a fervent, crowd-pleasing pace, marked by long runs and last-ditch tackles by both sides.

Canada finally tied the game



Canadian flanker Dennis Sinnott heads toward the Papua New Guinea goal as Billingsley and Hindson look on. (Photo-Link)

when flyhalf Billingsley took the ball from a five yard scrum, faked right and went left, giving Spence McTavish a beautiful scissors pass for the try (4-4).

2nd Half

Both teams came out running in the second half. After Canada gave the ball up deep in Bahrain territory, Canada flanker Jim Donaldson drove transplanted Manawatu (N.Z.) center Mark Thompson into touch. Donaldson alertly threw a quick lineout to Billingsley, who drew two tacklers before putting Alex Colvin away in the corner with a fine pass. Canada 8-4.

Canada held the aggressive Bahrain in check, and added one more try before the final whistle blew. From a lineout on Bahrain's 5, Canada's shifty Billingsley advanced to draw the defense, then chipped perfectly behind the Bahrain backs for Mark Wyatt to slide into goal. Wyatt converted and Canada won, 14-4.

Canada	Bahrain
Mindson	Collins
Donaldson	Murley
Colvin	Moss
MacMillan	Stapleton
Billingsley	Rick
McTavish	Thomson
Wyatt	Downes

GAME VI: Canada 8, Hong Kong 4

In the only overtime game during the tournament, Canada defeated Hong Kong in a match that had the crowd on their feet the entire contest.

The crowd had a lot to cheer for as Hong Kong was having better luck handling the ball in the sloppy turf. Canada was advancing patiently, however, under the calm direction of veteran John Billingsley. The flyhalf's chip ahead to McTavish who then threw a beautiful falling-down 15 yard pass to the speedy Wyatt provided Canada with a 4-0 halftime lead.

2nd Half

The second half brought pressing runs by Hong Kong, lead by the fleet-footed winger Eamonn McManus. Wyatt and McTavish each made timely tackles near their own line to preserve Canada's lead.

Hong Kong's Ian Duguid finally beat a scurrying defense to recover his own grubber for the tying try. His conversion attempt was wide and the match went into sudden death.

The winning move was simple enough. Canada won a scrum and fed it out to Wyatt on the wing who sped down the sideline, then, under pressure, booted the ball into goal where hustling flanker Alex Colvin touched it down. The diving try set the victory for Canada, and set the stage for a showdown with Korea in the Plate Competition final.

Canada	Hong Kong
Sinnott	Eastgate
Colvin	Yeomans
Donaldson	Sweetnam
MacMillan	Gregory
Billingsley	Bracher
McTavish	Duguid
Wyatt	McManus

GAME VII: Korea 30, Canada 6

After squeaking by Papua New Guinea 4-0 in the quarter finals of the Plate, Korea had convincingly massacred newcomer Solomon Islands 36-0 in the semifinals. The speedy Asians had the gears going and momentum, as well as the crowd, was on their side.

With Ro Hindson and Spence McTavish both injured, Canada chose Eagle Mike Purcell at reserve.

Korea showed they meant business in the first minute with a Song-Youn Ho special, as the long-haired center cut back hard across the Canadian defense for the game's first try. Kwang Ho converted. Then Korea's Song-Noil struck moments later with a long run for an unconverted try.

Canada broke through near the end of the period on a Billingsley scissors to Wyatt, who converted, leaving the crowd excited with the match 10-6 to Korea at the half.

2nd Half

Canada's luck ran out in the second half however. The Koreans notched a try immediately with a blistering 70 yard run up the middle on the kickoff. The Koreans kept the pressure on with short kicks through Canada's backline followed by relentless pursuit. They quickly added two more tries halfway through the second stanza.

Canada did not lie down, but mounted several attacks of their own. But it was just this kind of break that gave Korea the plate: Canada had managed to handle the slippery ball all the way down to the Korea 2, where a scrum was called. Korea wheeled and won, the ball popping out to tournament MVP Song-Youn Ho on the blindside, who blasted the length of the field for the try.

Korea had played the conditions perfectly throughout the tournament, kicking through.

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PAN AM[®]

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Carrier of the U.S. Eagles To The 1983 Hong Kong Sevens

1983 U.S. Eagles



Back: Chambers (Mgr.), O'Brien, Fowler, Finkel, Shanagher (Capt.), Prim, Parnell (Team Doctor)
Front: Bateman, Purcell, Jefferson, Cooke.

Fly with  PAN AM to the 1984 Sevens

(Canada Continued)

GAME VII

(Continued from Page 6)

limiting long passes, and keeping possession with constant support. With a 30-6 victory over Canada in the Plate Competition, South Korea certainly proved that they deserve their Asian crown and may soon be a power to be reckoned with on the world rugby scene.

Canada	Korea
Sinnott	Jung-Hyung Sak
Donaldson	Kim-Hyun
Colvin	Song-Youn Ho
MacMillan	Han-Dong Ho
Billingsley	Moon-Young Chen
Lecky	Kwang-Ho
Wyatt	Jung-Kyen Young



Eagle Steve Finkel awaits throw-in against New Zealand. (Photo-Link)

United States Results:

GAME I:

U.S. 12 Bahrain 10

The Eagle's first match was against Bahrain, a team comprised of British and New Zealand ex-patriots who live on the Arabian Gulf Island of the same name. They had won the 1978 Consolation Plate and would have upset the favored U.S. team had the Eagles not been awarded a penalty try in the last minute.

The Eagles came out attacking on defense as well as offense. "Everyone was a little excited," Captain Denis Shanagher later explained. "Everybody wanted to make the big hit, make the big play."

The Eagles' over-aggressive defense immediately cost them a try as Bahrain's Colin Rick found a gap between Shanagher and Old Blues' center Tim O'Brien for the game's first try. He converted, making it 6-0.

Two minutes later Eagle Willie Jefferson evened the score when he intercepted a Bahrain pass and raced 50 yards uncontested to touch down under the posts. Dick Cooke easily converted.

Near the end of the first half the Eagles had a chance to break the 6-6 tie when from a loose ball, Tim O'Brien hit Steve Finkel, got it back on a loop and had a run for the corner. He was knocked out just short of the goal as the half ended.

2nd Half

Early in the second half Bahrain was able to keep possession. Stopping and retreating on offense to start again, (something the Eagles did very little of) finally paid off for Bahrain as they broke with an overload toward Mike Purcell, who was unable to stop Mark Moss' corner try. Colin Rick's missed conversion set the stage for one of the most dramatic finishes of the day.

Down 10-6, the Eagles were on the attack. Several times they found holes but were caught by



Korea's Song-Youn Ho, the tournament MVP, leads an attack against the American Eagles. (Photo-Link)

Bahrain's cover defense. As time was running out, Mike Purcell made a dazzling break from his center position and quickly fed it to John Fowler in close support. Fowler rambled until he had attracted several tacklers before giving to Finkel, who sped toward the goal. Just before the goal line Finkel was clotheslined by a Bahrain defender, and a penalty try was awarded.

Dick Cooke calmly converted giving the Eagles a 12-10 win and spoiling Bahrain's hope for a first-round upset victory.

U.S.	Bahrain
Fowler	Moss
Finkel	Collins
Shanagher	Rick
Cooke	Stapleton
O'Brien	Downes
Purcell	Duck
Jefferson	Thomson

GAME II:
**Korea 16
U.S. 6**

At 4 p.m. the Eagles met Korea, last year's Plate Champions and current Asian Champions. The Eagles would have its hands full holding onto this talented side.

The U.S. decided to play San Antonio's swift 195 lb flanker Richard Prim, despite a pulled hamstring suffered earlier in the week. In addition the Eagles seemed determined to play a "dry" game in the rain.

Korea, however, adapted beautifully to the conditions. Halfway through the first half, Moon-Young Chen grubbered through the U.S. defense and two more down field kicks found him in the end goal with an unconverted try.

The Eagles continued to try handling the ball in the muddy conditions, and lost several possessions to knock-ons and dropped passes. Korea, on the other hand, had found the key and just before the half ended Jung-Hyung Sak kicked through the uneven U.S. defense and recovered for Korea's second try, which Kwang Ho converted; 10-0 to Korea.

2nd Half

The Asians knew when they had a good thing going. Short kicks through the line left the Americans slipping in retreat and inadequately covering from the weak side.

Korean fly-half Moon-Young Chen dribbled another one through, this one weak side, then beat Eagle scrumhalf Dave Bateman to it for an unconverted try. The Americans did manage to get an attack going near the end of the match. Richard Prim alertly threw a quick lineout to John Fowler, who gave it back to Prim to Shanagher and O'Brien before Purcell cut back for a 40 yard try. Steve Finkel converted, leaving the Eagles with a 16-6 loss.

Korea had adjusted to the rain and mud and scored their three tries on kicks through the American defense. Clearly, the Eagles would have to adjust to the conditions with stronger weak side cover defense and less passing in attack.

U.S.	Korea
Fowler	Jung-Hyung Sak
Finkel	Kwang-Ho
Prim	Kim-Hyun
Bateman	Han-Dong Ho
Shanagher	Moon-Young Chen
O'Brien	Song-Youn Ho
Purcell	Jung-Kyen Young

GAME III:
**U.S. 42
Singapore 0**

The U.S. put on an awesome display of strength and speed against a scrawny yet determined Singapore side on Saturday evening. Flyhalf Tim O'Brien sprung John Fowler for two tries within the first two minutes of the game.

San Francisco winger Willie Jefferson then added two tries, a 50 yard break on a pass from O'Brien and a 40 yard dash set up by Shanagher.

Dick Cooke converted all tries: U.S. 24, Singapore 0.

Second Half
Singapore valiantly tried to

use the Korean strategy of kicking through, but Jefferson was there to scoop the ball and give to Fowler for his third try.

The Eagles could do nothing wrong this match, and it looked like a U.S. track meet as Shanagher, O'Brien and Cooke each scored on long runs before the match ended, U.S. 42 - Singapore 0.

U.S.	Singapore
Fowler	Quek
Finkel	Hassan
Shanagher	Rashid
Cooke	Lai
O'Brien	Tong
Purcell	Choong
Jefferson	Chin

GAME IV:
**New Zealand 26
U.S. 0**

By the time the Eagles met New Zealand on Sunday, the pitch was a huge puddle, with ankle-deep mud at midfield.

Due to Prim's hamstring pull, the Eagles once again were forced to go with center Denis Shanagher at prop. Not only did this weaken the Eagle pack, but it forced two backs to play out of their normal positions; O'Brien from center to flyhalf and Purcell from winger to center.

The All-Blacks, the first national sevens side to represent New Zealand in Hong Kong, promised to play "traditional All-Black rugby with flair."

The Eagles had the first penetrating attack of the match when Purcell weaved his way to the New Zealand 15. The All Blacks, however, were the first there and counterattacked from the maul, finally springing winger Bruce Smith for a 50 yard try.

Five minutes later Smith added his second try, a 20 yard run set up from All Black dominance in loose play. Fry converted both tries, making it NZ 12 - US 0 at the half.

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Hong Kong 7's: An Opportunity

By Thomas Link

The Hong Kong Sevens is a showcase. Each year the best sevens players from almost all of the top rugby playing countries are selected to compete in this prestigious event. At no other time, in no other place do so many national teams play against one another in organized competition.

We were curious as to how selections for the top teams were made, and how these teams prepared for the tournament, so we interviewed players from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, the Scottish Border Club & Canada to find out.

Australia

For Australia, (the 1982 and 83 Champion), the job of the National Selection Committee "was easy" according to former sevens captain Gary Pearse. "We only had to replace one player; Mike O'Connor, with David Campese, Sevens, said Pearse, is not played much in Australia, except as pre-season training. All of Australia's players have international experience, and trained together only once before arriving in Hong Kong.

Fiji

"Sevens is quite popular in Fiji," said captain Esala Labalaba. Eleven unions chose select sides who came together for a tournament three weeks ago. From this national competition, three selectors and a coach chose a national side. "We've been practicing together for three weeks," added Labalaba. The

Fiji lineup included eight internationals and seven with Hong Kong Sevens experience.

New Zealand

All-Black coach Bryce Rope was quick to point out that "we don't play sevens in New Zealand." The NZRFU, however, organized a two-weekend playoff between the 26 provincial teams in order to choose a national side for Hong Kong. Three All-Black selectors chose a side composed of three All-Blacks and two All-Black reserves, only one of whom had Hong Kong Sevens experience. The New Zealand Sevens side trained together only one weekend before making the trip.

Scotland

Scotland's Border District, the birthplace of sevens, has the longest sevens tradition in the world. In the Border District, according to standoff Andrew Ker, (who also represents Scotland in cricket) "we play quite a bit of sevens, but usually against each other, and haven't had much training together as a team." Losing four internationals from last year's team to the Scotland-Barbarian match, the 1983 Borders Club included only one international and one reserve among a host of Border sevens medal holders. Last spring's Border Cups served as the trails for this year's team.

Canada

Canada's National Selection Committee "just sort of sat down and picked a side," said Captain Spence McTavish, "based on experience and ability." The Canadian side did have a chance to play together in game conditions the weekend before Hong

Kong in a mini-tournament against a provincial representative side. Eight of the nine selected had represented Canada internationally, but only two had played in last year's Hong Kong Sevens.

The Eagles

The Eagles were also a picked side, and left the U.S. with only one weekend's training together as a team. The U.S. side included five members of last year's squad, and one from the 1981 squad.

A lack of sevens expertise was evident in some of the more inexperienced Eagles. Many of the Eagles tries in 1982 were scored by the forwards when the ball came back in from the wing. This year, however, the Eagle backs lacked the patience to retreat and restart an attack when no gap was found. They often ran into tacklers to set up rucks, usually losing valuable possession.

U.S. Future in Sevens

The Hong Kong Invitation Sevens is a rare opportunity to show our stuff in front of the world rugby community. It's a chance to gain respect among the world rugby powers in a very short time. We are on a much more equal footing in sevens than we are 15's yet we haven't done much to prepare for Hong Kong.

Fiji, for example was badly beaten on a recent tour to Great Britain, but are highly respected simply because they've made it to the finals in Hong Kong four of the past seven years.

With all the potential for a very competitive Eagle sevens

side, all we need is a little organization.

Eight existing summer sevens tournaments could be named as official regional trials, two in each of the four territories. Representative teams from each region would be chosen by qualified selectors.

These eight "select sides" would then playoff for a National Sevens Cup. Our Hong Kong side would be chosen from participants in the National Sevens Cup.

Although our coaching staff is already overtaxed and it's financially impractical to bring the Eagle's sevens side together for more than a weekend before Hong Kong, the Territorial Trial competitions could be the answer. At the very best the U.S. is assured of selecting players solely on their sevens ability, and our players will gain a certain level of expertise by playing tough competition in over a dozen territorial or national playoff games.

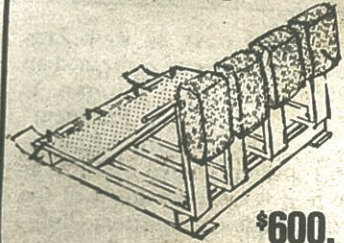
Sevens is a game that is fast, relatively easily understood, and exciting to watch. Is it too much to think that sevens rugby, if marketed correctly, could attract some bored summer spectators?

With the size and speed of American athletes, a little organ-

ization in sevens could gain U.S. rugby respect years ahead of its time.

All we need is an experienced and capable individual who is willing to spend all his rugby time organizing toward this goal. Any takers?

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Game IV: (Continued)

2nd Half

The second half was controlled by the All-Black forwards, who seemed to be constantly moving forward, making it impossible for the U.S. to gain possession.

Early in the half New Zealand's Richard Fry eluded Willie Jefferson then kicked through the Eagle cover defense to touch down for an unconverted try.

New Zealand continued to dominate nearly all set pieces, and the Eagles never saw the ball.

All Black hooker Hika Reid took a lineout at the Eagle 5 and charged over the line for their fourth try.

Just as the match ended Bruce Smith scored his third try of the game, this one off second phase, which Fry then converted. NZ 26 - US 0.

The traditional forward-driving All Black style was just too much for the weakened American forwards to handle.

"They were the toughest we've faced," veteran Steve Finkel said.

Obviously, the U.S. needed one more big man against such well-disciplined forwards. "With Lambert up there last year," Fowler admitted, "we really pushed some people around."

U.S.	New Zealand
Fowler	Stanley
Finkel	Reid
Shanagher	Dawson
Bateman	Donald
O'Brien	Fry
Purcell	Smith
Jefferson	Tietjens

GAME V:

Scotland 12 U.S. 0

Even though the Eagles had lost two during the preliminary round, they advanced to the Cup Competition by virtue of points scored.

In their fifth game the Eagles met the Scottish Border Club, a team from the district that gave birth to "Sevens" in 1883. The Borders had been narrowly defeated by Australia in last year's final, 18-14. Even though they were missing internationals like Renwick, Rutherford, Robertson, and Baird who were playing for Scotland vs. the Barbarians, the Borders were among the tournament favorites.

Scotland began their attack with short kicks through the line, much the same as Korea did. The Eagles were able to cover the kicks this match, but were unable to counterattack from them.

Eagle center Mike Purcell fell on one kick but was smothered by Border pursuit. From the ensuing ruck standoff Andrew Ker faked strongside and dove in weakside for an unconverted try.

Scotland continued to attack, winning nearly all the set pieces against the weaker U.S. pack. Driven back to their own 10, the Eagles were forced to run into touch. Fowler tapped the Border throw-in to Bateman who couldn't hang onto it in the end goal. Scotland reserve hooker

Gary Callander fell on it, giving the Borders an 8-0 halftime lead.

Second Half

The Borders sevens expertise became even more evident in the second half, as they patiently worked the ball, looking for the gap, denying the Eagles possession.

The gap came three minutes into the half, followed by two beautiful open-field scissors, leaving Scotland international flanker Eric Paxton alone for the Borders final try.

Late in the match, Eagle speedster Willie Jefferson got loose for a long run down the touchline, but was stopped short of the line by exceptional Border cover defense. Border Club 12, U.S. 0.

The Eagles had been forced to play with Shanagher in the forwards again, and consequently were not strong enough to challenge Scotland in the sets. The sloppy conditions didn't allow the Eagles to make full use of the speed they had brought to Hong Kong, and the injury to Prim weakened the U.S. pack and forced backs to play out of position.

Steve Finkel summed up the Eagle performance, "We just didn't have the horses. And the ones we did have were out of position."

U.S.	Scottish Borders
Fowler	Paxton
Finkel	Callander
Shanagher	White
Bateman	Hogarth
O'Brien	Ker
Purcell	Murray
Jefferson	Roy

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