

New Zealand Tops Fiji In Hong Kong 7s

by Ed Hagerty

**Hong Kong
March 28-29, 1987**

The 30,000+ spectators packed into National Stadium for the final of the Hong Kong 7s thought they were witnessing just another in a long line of exotic spectacles when first Fiji and then the All Blacks performed war dances at mid-field prior to kickoff.

When play commenced moments later, however, in one of the roughest, fastest-paced sevens matches in history, spectators realized that the war dances of these two rivals (who hold little love for each other) were far from ceremonial.

The All Blacks retained their cool, in the face of repeated Fiji transgression, to wear down their opponents and record a well-deserved, 12-6 victory. It was their second Hong Kong 7s win in as many years.

The final, not surprisingly, was contested between the biggest, fastest, fittest teams in the competition. The Fijis were gigantic, averaging 6'3" and at least 210 lbs. The All Blacks had NFL linebacker-sized forwards in Brooke, Shelford and Koloto, while all of their backs had sprinter's speed which they could maintain the length of the field.

The final, as did many of the better matches, featured tactical ploys which violated what has come to be considered traditional sevens "wisdom." Pop kicks, long kicks ahead with fleet backs running onto the ball and line kicks to touch were all employed when the situation warranted them.

The Fijis added an element of provocative physical intimidation which came in the form of at least three brutal tackles in the first three minutes. New Zealand answered in kind and were content to retain possession. The All



All-Black scrumhalf Alan Crowley, with Mark Brooke-Cowden in support, attacks vs the Penguins in the semi-final of the Hong Kong 7s. New Zealand won 28-0. (Photo-Hagerty)

Blacks recorded the only score of the half at the six-minute mark when scrumhalf Alan Crowley went blindside from a scrum to score wide right from 15 yards out. Frano Botica's conversion was no good (4-0).

The All Blacks continued on the attack, but the Fiji defense was swarming and brutal. Just before the interval, massive Manasa Oro slammed Crowley into touch with a savage head-high tackle, and punches were exchanged. Other players, including New Zealand's Wayne Shelford, joined the fray and it was only the calming influence of international referee David Burnett (Ireland), which prevented the contest from turning into a Pier 9 brawl.

Second Half

One minute into the second half, Terry Wright extended New Zealand's lead to 8-0 when he picked up a kick-ahead by Lindsay Raki, eluded one desperate tackle and touched down wide left. Botica's difficult conversion attempt was just wide, 8-0.

Rather than becoming dispirited, Fiji continued hammering at the All Blacks and their efforts were rewarded in the eighth minute (10 minute halves in the final). Prop Jo Togo took a pass at his own 25-yard line and sprinted to midfield where he was forced to kick ahead. He booted the ball once again, picked up five yards from New Zealand's line, avoided a defender with a beautiful circling move, and crashed over for the

try. Qoro's conversion put Fiji back in the thick of things, 8-6.

The All Blacks, however, were not to be denied. Off the ensuing kickoff the ball came out to Botica who put a beautiful kick ahead. Terry Wright streaked 60 yards downfield, leaped to catch the bouncing ball, and fell across the line just as he was hit by a Fijian defender.

The conversion failed, but the final whistle gave the All Blacks their second straight Hong Kong 7s Championship. **Final score, 12-6.**

Shelford

Commenting on the championship match with Fiji, All Black captain Wayne Shelford noted: "It was a very physical and competitive sevens game, one of the hardest I've ever

played in. We weren't planning anything prior to the match, but when Fiji did their war dance — a challenge — we decided to do the Haka.

"They were out to win — so were we. They employed some tactics which were meant to intimidate, but we stood up to it.

"Nothing was carried off the field, however. After the game we had a few beers with Fiji."

PRELIMS

New Zealand

In reaching the final the All Blacks recorded effortless pool victories over Brunei, 30-0, and Korea, 38-0.

The All Blacks met their first real test against the Eagles in the quarter finals, but despite a good effort by the U.S., New Zealand prevailed 20-6.

The All Blacks opened the throttle in their semi-final win over the Penguins, England's entry, and cruised to a 28-0 victory.

Despite the presence of a world-class back in the person of Martin Offiah, the Penguins lacked the muscle, speed and fitness up-front to contend with the likes of Shelford, Brooke-Cowden and Koloto.

Fiji

In pool play, Fiji ran up 70 unanswered points, beating Singapore, 42-0, and Bahrain, 28-0.

Fiji was brought back to reality in the quarterfinals when they had to go all out to get past a tough, fast, well-coached Canadian side by a 12-4 margin.

Fiji pulled off the upset of the tournament when they beat favored Australia in the semi-final by a score of 14-8.

At their most dangerous when underestimated, the fast, powerful Fijians scored three fabulous tries in the first five minutes. The overconfident Australians, who left Nick Farr-Jones and Steve Tuynman sitting on the sidelines, were down 14 points before they ever got a chance to touch



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Five big Fijians converge on Australian flyhalf Michael Lynagh in their semifinal match. Fiji prevailed, 14-8. (Photo-Hagerty)

the ball.

Sevenaca Aria scored Fiji's first try when he took the opening kickoff, found a gap on the right, and turned on the jets to touch down unchallenged (4-0).

In the third minute, big Jo Togo burst away on the right, kicked ahead, recovered and fed Apisai Sesewa for a converted try under the posts (10-0). Fiji's final score came in the 5th minute when Sesewa broke left and fed Tomasi Cama for a try in the left corner (14-0).

The Australians came back in the second half with tries by Lynagh and Miller, but it was too little, too late.

Controversial Australian coach Alan Jones, complained bitterly after the contest of delaying tactics used by Fiji but did admit that Australia failed to make the most of opportunities presented to them.

FRENCH BARBARIANS WIN PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

In the battle for Plate honors, contested among teams which were runners-up in the 3-team pool competition, the French Barbarians posted a convincing 26-10 victory over the Welsh Academicals.

It is noteworthy that the best players either France or Wales deigned to send, wound up fighting for supremacy of the second rank teams.

HONG KONG WINS BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP

Host Hong Kong took top honors in the Bowl Division, contested among the 8 countries which lost both of their pool matches.

In the exciting final, Hong Kong beat Sri Lanka 24-20 in sudden death overtime.



U. S. scrumhalf Mike Saunders wrongfoots New Zealand's brilliant flyhalf Frano Botica in their quarterfinal match. (Photo-Hagerty)

U.S. Eagles Reach Championship Round

by Ed Hagerty

Hong Kong
March 28-29, 1987

Having won the Plate Championship in 1986, the 1987 Eagles had a tough act to follow. The team's performance, however, showed a marked improvement and many commented that this was the best Eagle 7s side yet. Convincing preliminary round victories over Taiwan (28-6) and a tough Tongan side (12-0) gained them a berth in the quarter finals of the elite, Cup Championship. There they engaged eventual champion New Zealand in a spirited match, registering one of only two tries scored upon the All Blacks, before eventually succumbing, 20-6.

UNITED STATES 28,
TAIWAN 6

March 28, 1987

The Eagles' first match was really a case of men against boys.

The Eagles were simply too big and too fast for the small Taiwan side, putting the game quickly out of reach.

The Eagles' first score came just 40 seconds into the match. Scrumhalf Tom Smith intercepted a pressured pass just outside Taiwan's 25, and returned it for a try between the posts. Smith converted his own try, 6-0.

In the third minute, 22-year-old Junior Eagle Barry Williams pulled clear from an over-stretched defense and raced 30 yards to score at the posts. Smith's second conversion increased the Eagle lead to 12-0.

The Eagles continued to hammer at Taiwan's line but a gallant Chinese stopped Brian Vizard with a suicidal, head-on tackle. The Eagles kept the pressure on and in the sixth minute Williams touched down again, well off on the left. Smith's kick was off the mark, bringing the score at half-time to 16-0.

Second Half

Rookie Barry Williams made

his first 7s international a memorable one as he scored his third try of the game 3½ minutes into the second period. Smith's conversion pushed the U.S. lead to 22-0.

Power running by Gary Lambert and Steve Finkel resulted in a try by Finkel. Smith's conversion closed out the Eagle account at 28-0.

A late try by Taiwan's Tian Sing brought the final tally to 28-6.

U.S.	Taiwan
Lambert	Hsiao
Finkel	Shuem
Vizard	Jen
Smith	Chan
Wilkinson	Cheng
Saunders	Sing
Williams	Hua

UNITED STATES 12,
TONGA 0

March 28, 1987

The Eagles second pool match was against Tonga; a big, tough side with plenty of speed. The Eagles would not have the physical advantages here that they enjoyed against Taiwan; they would have to rely on their skills and tactical play to win.

This was a crossroads game. If they lost, the Eagles would go into the Plate Competition, which they had an excellent chance of winning. A victory would pit them against the All

Blacks in the quarter final round of the Cup Competition.

To a man, the Eagles were determined to beat Tonga and take their rightful place in the quarterfinals among the top rank sevens countries.

In the US-Tonga matchup, the large and appreciative crowd was treated to a fierce defensive struggle, which saw the half end in a scoreless (0-0) tie. The beautiful breaks and excellent support of both teams were met with equally resolute defense.

Second Half

The Eagles finally broke the ice at a minute of the second spell when Eagle hooker Will "Wheels" Brewington won a deep hook at Tonga's 12-yard line. The ball went directly to Barry Williams, standing in the flyhalf position, who burst through the Tongan defense to score at the posts. Smith's conversion gave the Eagles a 6-0 lead.

The Eagles' second score came at the 3:13 mark with Tonga under heavy pressure from Eagle defenders at Tonga's 10-yard line. Quick-handed Eagle flyhalf, Charlie Wilkinson, intercepted a hurried Tongan pass and touched down. Smith's conversion pushed the margin to 12-0.

During the remainder of the half, Eagle scrumhalf Tom Smith twice kicked deep to touch to relieve pressure. Shortly

before the game ended, Tonga's Tomasi Lovo made a beautiful break and looked sure to score, but he was brought down short of the line by Barry Williams' try-saving tackle. Smith again boomed a long, relieving kick to touch and the final whistle blew.

U. S.	Tonga
Lambert	Tupou
Brewington	Atiola
Vizard	Langi
Smith	Fifita
Wilkinson	Eteaki
Gaetjen	Ma'afu
Williams	Lovo

NEW ZEALAND 20
UNITED STATES 6

March 29, 1987

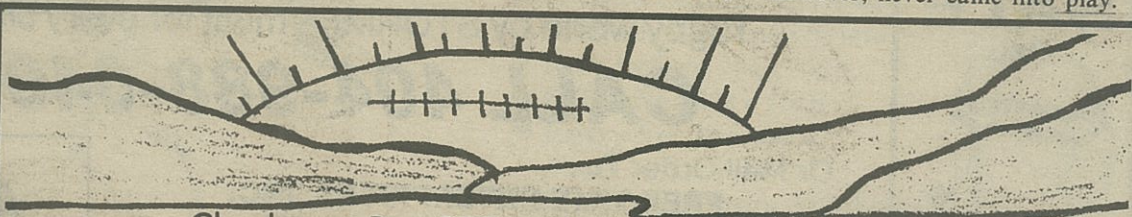
For their match against the defending champion All Blacks, the Eagles featured Mike Saunders at scrumhalf with Tom Smith in the flyhalf slot. These moves were occasioned by the slight shoulder separation suffered by Charlie Wilkinson while making a tackle in the Tonga game.

The Eagles' pre-game strategy was to play conservatively and cut down game time by kicking to touch whenever they got in trouble. Coach Emil Signes felt that the big Eagle forwards (Lambert and Vizard) could contest the All Blacks for possession in either scrums or lineouts.

The aforementioned strategy, however, never came into play.



Eagle wing Barry William accelerates away from Tongan defenders for a try. The U.S. beat Tonga 12-0 and advanced to the championship round. (Photo-Hagerty)



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The three American sides, Canada, the U.S. and Argentina get together for a group photo. The Canadian players are: (Front) Dave Tucker, Pat Palmer, Mark Wyatt. (Middle) Gary Johnston, Paul Vaesen, Ian Stuart, John Lecky (Back) Glen Ennis, Ro Hindson, Tom Woods. The U.S. contingent is: (Front) Charlie Wilkinson, Steve Finkel, Tom Smith, Mike Saunders, Barry Williams. (Back) Gary Lambert, Brian Vizard, Mark Gaetjen, Will Brewington, Dan Kilen, Joe Reagan (Mgr), Emil Signes (coach). (Photo-Hagerty)

The Eagles' opening kickoff failed to find touch and All Black Terry Wright went all the way from his own 10 to score at the 18 second mark. Wright's conversion gave New Zealand a 6-0 lead and forced the U.S. to play aggressive, catch-up rugby.

New Zealand extended their lead to 10-0 in the 3rd minute when Andrew McMaster scored on a 30-yard run after taking a pass from Wayne Shelford. Botica's conversion was no good.

McMaster set up New Zealand's third score when he made a beautiful run from his own 15, passing off to Botica for the try. Botica converted bringing the halftime score to 16-0.

Second Half

The Eagles came out playing aggressively in the second spell and kept the All Black scoring

machine under wraps. The U.S. reduced the deficit in the 5th minute when Brewington took a pass from Smith and scored a try from 20 yards out. Smith converted, 16-6.

With the Eagles once again on the attack in the All Black end, Botica picked up a loose ball and ran it back for a score as time expired. The conversion was no good (20-6).

U.S.	New Zealand
Lambert	Shelford
Brewington	Brooke-Cowden
Vizard	Brooke
Saunders	Crowley
Smith	Botica
Gaetjen	McMaster
Williams	Wright
	Eagle Coach
	Signes

Summing up his team's performance, Eagle 7s coach Emil Signes noted:

"To be successful in Hong Kong the Eagles had to do one of two things, with the second being preferable:

"1) Win the Plate Championship or

"2) Get into the Cup quarter-finals.

"Having accomplished this objective and having performed creditably against the All Blacks in the quarterfinals, we had a successful tournament.

"In the New Zealand game, every All Black score came as a result of an Eagle mistake — mistakes the Eagles are capable of avoiding.

"Some of our players went into the game awed by the All Black reputation. They emerged from the game knowing that they had lost to a great team, but knowing that the All Blacks are beatable."

Canada Loses To Fiji In Quarter Finals

by Peter McMullan

Hong Kong
March 28-29, 1987

Don't ever let anyone say that sevens rugby is a watered down imitation of the 15-a-side game. That's just not true. Ask anyone of the record-setting 30,000 crowd that sat through the two days of the 12th annual, 24-team

Cathay Pacific - Hong Kong Bank tournament.

As a first time visitor I was overwhelmed by the magnificent sense of occasion, by the quality of the organization both on the field and behind the scenes, by the depth of the traditions that have developed since the first 16 team event in 1976, and, above all, by the tremendous will to succeed that was a hallmark of the play from start to finish.



Canadian speedster Pat Palmer accelerates away from a Fijian defender to set up a try by Mark Wyatt (Photo-Hagerty)



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As a Canadian, my principal interest concerned the progress being made by coach Gary Johnston's maple leaf squad, but there was so much else to see and admire. The crowds, the colour, the setting - a stadium ringed on three sides by steep-sided, densely-treed hills, topped by towering high rises, their upper stories wreathed in cloud - the mosaic of faces, dress and languages that made for a rugby spectacle of the first order, one probably without equal anywhere in the world.

All that served as the perfect showcase for the Cup final game late in the afternoon of the second day, the championship decider between Southern Hemisphere rivals New Zealand and Fiji, 12-4 quarter-final winners over Canada earlier in the day.

Canada had given their best but it had not been good enough to subdue Fiji. Canada fought their way into the championship round the previous day by way of preliminary round victories over Sri Lanka (30-0) and the Welsh Academicals (22-10). By way of contrast to the preliminary round games, Canada was denied possession in the opening minutes of the quarter final, as Fiji pulled clear with tries by Jo Togo and Esala Labalaba to lead 8-0 at the half.

Pat Palmer ran with great determination on the right to pave the way for a try to Mark Wyatt. It seemed for a time that Canada might turn the tide, but eventually it was Savenaca Aria who made it 12-4 to Fiji.

Later Johnston spoke of the need for even greater concentration and pointed to the significance of two critical errors - a

ball kicked through when it should have been passed and a penalty, and with it possession, given away when a ball was played on the ground.

For all that, Canada came out of this tournament with considerable credit, all the more so when it is realized that both the teams they defeated in the preliminary round went on to reach the finals of the Plate and Bowl events. The Welsh Academicals fell to the French Barbarians 26-10 in the Plate, while Hong Kong needed sudden death overtime to dispatch Sri Lanka 24-20 in the Bowl.

With the World Cup just around the corner it was inevitable that all of us associated with the Canadian challenge took more than a passing interest in the fortunes of Tonga. Their defeats by a most competent USA on the first day and then by Korea in the Plate quarter-final, suggested that Canada need not be despondent as to the likely outcome when the two countries meet again in Napier, New Zealand on May 24.

At the time, of course, we did not know the result of the Canada-Tonga game in the Australia Sevens but my feeling was that this well-prepared, injury-free Canadian squad would travel on to Sydney with every expectation of further successes.

Canada had been able to play the same side against both the Welsh Academicals and Fiji with Tucker and Hindson coming in for Palmer and Ennis in the opening game against Sri Lanka. On that occasion, Tucker and Stuart each scored two tries with Vaeson and Wyatt adding one



Ilan Stuart (right) collars a Fijian ball carrier in Canada's 12-4 quarterfinal loss. (Photo-Hagerty)

each while Wyatt supplied three conversions.

Much had been expected of the Welsh Academicals but Canada was more than equal to the challenge, leading 16-6 in the first seven minutes through tries by Stuart, Palmer and Wyatt, who also landed two more conversions. The Welsh picked up the only try in the second half but Wyatt, who was to contribute 28 points in Canada's three outings, stretched the distance between the teams with two most confi-

dent penalties.

That set the scene for the Fiji game but, before then, Canada was once again heavily involved in the mini-rugby activities that are so much a part of the Hong Kong tournament. The players, many of them only eight or nine years old, play with infectious enthusiasm and no little skill, and were obviously delighted to see the Canadians taking such an interest in their activities.

This annual event has a magic, a quality all of its own, one that

owes much to the imagination of the organizers. They encourage the adult players to share the limelight with their tiny counterparts in mini-rugby; they stage a players' parade that is a show in itself. Of course it's a serious rugby occasion...but not too serious...one where the spectators come to be entertained, where their expectations are more than fulfilled, where everyone has a good time.

What a contrast it provides to some of the less appealing games all must endure each year.

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Australia Blasts NZ In Sydney 7s

by Ed Hagerty

Sydney, Australia
April 6, 1987

Australia roared back into the forefront of world 7s with a bitterly fought and well-deserved 22-10 victory over New Zealand in the final of the New South Wales World 7s.

The Australians, extremely disappointed by their failure to make it into the finals of the Hong Kong 7s (in either '87 or '86), and at the 32-0 beating administered to them by the All Blacks in the final of the 1986 NSW's 7s, were determined to climb back into the spotlight. The Wallabies were obviously stung by criticism of their past performance and came out for the final, playing New Zealand at its own physical game; meeting Kiwi ballcarriers with hard tackles which regained possession.

And, indeed, Australia's hard-nosed strategy worked as the All Blacks, operating without their brilliant tactician and leading player, Franco Botica, were down at the half, 16-0.

Australia's first try came 45 seconds into the match when New Zealand's Terry Wright coughed up the ball near his own 22 after a questionable tackle by Brett Papworth. Flyhalf Michael Lynagh gained possession and passed to massive 6'5", 245 lb. forward Troy Coker for the try. Lynagh's conversion gave Australia a 6-0 lead.

There followed a minute-long fist-fight between Coker and New Zealand's Zinzan Brooke after a tackle, while play swirled on in different parts of the field. Australia's second try came at



Fijian defenders converge on New Zealand's Frano Botica during their semifinal match in Sydney. The All Blacks won (14-12) but lost their leader, Botica, in the process. (Photo-Hagerty)

the 5-minute mark off of a penalty play. Poidevin took the tap and passed inside to Lynagh who scored and then converted (12-0).

On the ensuing kick-off, David Campese made a break on Terry Wright and passed to Michael Lynagh. The brilliant Aussie flyhalf went thirty-five yards for the try, fending off an attempted tackle by Lindsay Raki.

The conversion failed but Australia maintained its 16-0 margin to the end of the 10-minute half.

Second Half

The All Blacks fought their way back into the game when Alan Crowley and then Terry Wright scored tries for New Zealand within 5 minutes of the restart. Andrew McMaster converted Wright's try to bring the Kiwis to within 6 (16-10).

Australia, however, with David Campese at sweeper, were now playing flawless defense and keeping New Zealand bottled up in their own end of the field.

Australia put the match on ice with thirty seconds to go when they won a scrum near New Zealand's line and MVP Nick Farr-Jones slipped a pass to captain Simon Poidevin for the try. Lynagh's conversion made the final scoreline, **Australia 22, New Zealand 10.**

Australia's win was a very emotional one, with their controversial coach Alan Jones calling, prior to the game, for a "return to the spirit of Eden Park"; the site of Australia's Bledisloe Cup win over New Zealand.

Commenting on his side's victory, flyhalf Mike Lynagh noted: "Alan said we had to keep going forward whether we were in attack or defense. It was rugby

league stuff; always going forward on defense so they'd be on the back foot."

Australia	New Zealand
Coker	Brooke
Poidevin	Brooke-Cowden
Tuynman*	Shelford
Farr-Jones	Crowley
Lynagh	McMaster
Papworth	Raki
Campese	Wright

*Replaced by Reynolds

PRELIMS Australia

In pool matches leading to the finals, Australia operated with machine-like precision, eliminating the Netherlands (36-0) and Western Samoa (42-0) by wide margins and then beating a tough Korean side, 20-6.

The Wallabies then beat Tonga (22-10) in Sunday's quarterfinal and accelerated past Korea once again (34-4) in the semi final.

Australia's margin in five preliminary games was an astounding 154-20, illustrating how wide the gap is between the top rank teams (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji) and the also-rans.

New Zealand

New Zealand's 146-32 edge was also impressive. They started off with a 48-0 waltz over a decent Hong Kong side; and then were almost ambushed by the French Barbarians. The French held a 12-0 halftime lead but the All Blacks opened the throttle to cruise home 18-12. In their third pool match, the U.S. played the All Blacks tough before succumbing 14-4.

The All Blacks recorded the highest score of the tournament when they demolished a competitive Spanish side 52-4 in the quarter-finals. So complete was the All Black domination that

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Australian captain Simon Poidevin scores his country's final try in their 22-10 championship win over New Zealand. (Photo-Hagerty)

Spain never touched the ball until the final minute of the second half, when they managed a try.

New Zealand's semi-final against Fiji provided a replay of the Hong Kong Championship, as the All Blacks squeaked by with a 14-12 win. Their victory was a costly one, however, as fly-half Frano Botica went down with a knee injury and was unavailable for the final.

Eagles Go 3-3 In Sydney

by Ed Hagerty

Sydney, Australia
April 5-6, 1987

The United States emerged from the 1987 New South Wales World 7s Tournament with a 3-3 record. They missed the cut for the championship round by dropping games in their four-team pool competition to the French Barbarians and All Blacks, while just squeaking by Hong Kong 20-14.

Relegated to the Plate competition, the Eagles reached the final by posting victories over newcomer Tunisia and Hong Kong. They never got close to the hardware, however, as a red-hot Western Samoa side took a 22-0 lead into the half and then coasted home, 25-12.

Having witnessed their performances at both Hong Kong and Sydney, it appeared that the Eagles have the raw material to compete with any team in the world. Their play, however, was terribly erratic. They would perform well against the All Blacks and then go into a trance and have trouble with Hong Kong. It was difficult to determine whether their lapses were due to lack of experience, motivation, on-field leadership, fitness or a combination of these factors.

Another circumstance which definitely affected the Eagles' performance in Sydney was the flu. Brian Vizard, a superb

forward, was the worst hit, having to leave the field midway thru the French Barbarian game and subsequently returning to the hotel. Mike Saunders, Charlie Wilkinson and Will Brewington were affected to varying degrees; as was coach Emil Signes who spent two days in bed.

The conditions in Sydney were outstanding. The tournament took place at the New South Wales Rugby Union's brand new Concord Oval facility. Games were played consecutively on a flawless, natural grass surface under cloudless skies, with temperatures in the mid-seventies.

**FRENCH BARBARIANS 22,
UNITED STATES 4**
April 5, 1987

In their first match, the U.S. faced the French Barbarians, a team which included Eagle wing Willie Jefferson, who now plays his club rugby for Perpignan. According to Willie, the Barbarians consist of top players from first division French clubs which had already been knocked out of the French Club Championship. Their selection was a reward for good play during the year.

Their objective, according to Jefferson, was to "train a little, play some rugby and have a lot of fun."

And have fun the Barbarians did — at the Eagles' expense.

The first half, however, was quite evenly contested with the French drawing first blood on a try by Alain Peytrin. Patrick Bonal converted to put the Barbarians on top, 6-0.

The Eagles answered when flyhalf Charlie Wilkinson jinked and danced into the clear at midfield and then passed to Dan Kilen who got down to the 5, where he was tackled. Kilen got up, grabbed the ball and dove across the line to score. Smith's angled conversion was no good (6-4).

Vizard came off just before halftime, due to the flu, and was replaced by veteran Steve Finkel.

Second Half

The U.S. received to start the second half and backpedaled close to their line. The French regained possession and Jefferson was bundled into touch close to their line at about the 5.



Charlie Wilkinson, the Eagles' elusive flyhalf, examines his options as All Black Wayne Shelford bears down. New Zealand won this pool game in Sydney, 14-4. (Photo-Hagerty)

The French won possession from the ensuing lineout and an unconverted try by Marc Andrieu increased the Barbarians' lead to 10-4.

Andrieu scored from a scrum 4½ minutes into the half when the U.S. was unable to get the ball out of their own end. Bonal's conversion was good (16-4).

The French closed out the scoring when Peytrin touched down between the posts off of a penalty play and Bonal converted (22-4).

The performance of the U.S. was disappointing, and with the prospect of facing the All Blacks in game three, relegation to the Plate Competition was almost a

foregone conclusion.

U.S.	Fr. Barbarians
Lambert	Gely
Brewington	Peschlestrade
Vizard	Andrieu
Smith	Peytrin
Wilkinson	Ducournau
Kilen	Bonal
Williams	Jefferson

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U.S. scrumhalf Tom Smith (right) pursues a Hong Kong ball carrier in the Eagles' Plate semifinal win. (Photo-Hagerty)



Eagle Gary Lambert throws a football pass, right on target, to Will Brewington who went 20 yards untouched for a try against Western Samoa. (Photo-Hagerty)

**UNITED STATES 20,
HONG KONG 14**

April 5, 1987

The Eagles' second match pitted them against the expatriate-laden side from the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong.

The Eagles got on the board first at the two-minute mark when Tom Smith hit Kilen with a pass and the Quad Cities' back raced 50 yards for the try.

Will Brewington went 60 yards for a try shortly thereafter and Smith's two conversions put the Eagles up 12-0.

Tries by Hong Kong's Chris Docherty and Dean Bailey (converted) brought the margin to 12-10 at the half.

Second Half

Scrumhalf Mike Saunders

scored from the 20 on a pass from Tom Smith but Smith's conversion was no good (16-10).

Hong Kong closed to 16-14 with another try but the U.S. widened the final margin to 20-14 when Dan Kilen scored after an outstanding individual effort by Gary Lambert.

U.S.	Hong Kong
Lambert	Lenoir
Brewington	Ashall
Finkel	Pain
Saunders	Daly
Smith	Bredbury
Gaetjen	Docherty
Kilen	McManus

**NEW ZEALAND 14,
UNITED STATES 4**

April 5, 1987

Having played lackluster ball in their first two games, the U.S.

turned around and performed exceedingly well against Hong Kong champions, New Zealand.

Captain Gary Lambert set the tone a minute into the game. Picking up a kick ahead in All Black territory, the 230-lb. flanker used his exceptional speed and strength to scatter All Black defenders like ten pins as he crashed over the line for a try.

Tom Smith's conversion was no good (4-0).

The Eagles defended well but at the 5½-minute mark Emoster Terry Wright got the ball out to speedster Terry Wright for the try. Wright converted and the All Blacks had a 6-4 lead.

Second Half

The All Blacks struck again a minute into the second half. Winning a hook at midfield, Wright made the break, drew the cover and passed to Botica for a try in the left corner. Botica's conversion was off the mark (10-4).

Terry Wright scored a try to ice the victory (14-4) when the Eagles kicked-off away from support and Wright kicked thru.

U.S.	New Zealand
Lambert	Koloto
Brewington	Brooke-Cowden
Finkel	Shelford
Smith	Crowley
Wilkinson	Botica
Kilen	Raki
Williams	Wright

Plate Competition:

**UNITED STATES 28,
TUNISIA 4**

April 6, 1987

The Eagles' opponent in the quarter final of the Plate Championship was Tunisia, an absolute novice at sevens. It was fortunate for the Eagles that their foe wasn't more formidable as they were wracked by the flu and scrumhalf Mike Saunders would be forced to retire before the game's end.

The U.S. won the match 28-4 on tries by Kilen (2), Gaetjen (2), and Brewington, and four Tom Smith conversions.

The play of the match came in the second half when Vizard fired a 50-yard football pass to Tom Smith. The ball went from Smith, to Brewington, to Kilen who ran 50 yards for the try.

The Tunisians, whom the U.S. will play a full (15-man) Test against on May 3rd, proved to be tough, fast, but very inexperienced 7s opponents.



Eagle flyhalf Charlie Wilkinson defends against Western Samoa in the Plate final. The Samoans won 25-12. (Photo-Hagerty)

**WESTERN SAMOA 25,
UNITED STATES 12**

April 6, 1987

The United States kicked off to Samoa in the Plate final and that was virtually the only possession they had the entire half. The swift Samoan backs, particularly Anitelea Aiolupotea, were on their game and ran in four tries to post an insurmountable 22-0 halftime advantage.

Aiolupotea scored three tries and two conversions while captain Taufusi Salesa notched a try and a conversion.

Second Half

The Eagles redeemed themselves somewhat in the second half, when they put on the most effective display of (U.S.) football passing that this author has ever seen.

Two cross-field passes were thrown in quick succession, completely confusing the defenders. On the second, Lambert threw a strike to Brewington as Brewington ran for the gain line at full tilt. He crossed Western Samoa's line, 20 yards away, without being touched. Smith converted, 22-6.

Mark Gaetjen scored a try with five minutes remaining, which Smith also converted (22-12).

Aiolupotea then closed the show with a time-killing penalty kick (25-12).

U.S.	Western Samoa
Lambert	Salesa
Brewington	Aiolupotea
Vizard	Vaega
Smith	Epati
Wilkinson	Patolo
Gaetjen	Lameta
Kilen	Moanau

**UNITED STATES 24,
HONG KONG 4**

April 6, 1987

In the Plate semifinal, the Eagles had a rematch with a tired Hong Kong side which had just posted a victory over Japan in the quarterfinals.

Things looked dark as shortly after kickoff Hong Kong touched down for a 4-0 lead. That, however, was to be the expatriates' last gasp, as the Eagles scored 24 unanswered points.

The Eagles' first score came in the 5th minute when the ball went from Wilkinson to Smith to Lambert, and the big man took it 40 yards for a try. Smith's conversion put the U.S. ahead 6-4.

A minute later, Lambert made a break from the Eagle end zone, passed to Brewington at the Eagle 25, and "Wheels" broke clear to touch down at the posts. Smith's conversion brought the halftime score to 12-4.

Second Half

Early in the second spell, Gaetjen went down on a Hong Kong grub-kick and flipped the ball to Brian Vizard. Vizard fed Charlie Wilkinson, who took off down the touchline to score in the left corner. Smith failed to convert (16-4).

Vizard tapped down the ensuing kickoff to Lambert. The ball went from Lambert to Gaetjen and back to Vizard who ran 40 yards for an unconverted try in the corner (20-4).

Dan Kilen closed out the scoring, 10 seconds from full time, with a 35-yard dash to the line (24-4).

The U.S. was now in the Plate Championship against the winner of the Western Samoa/Argentina semifinal, still to be played. This gave the U.S. a tremendous advantage as their opponent would have only a 20-minute rest between the semifinal and final games.

United States	Smith
Lambert	Wilkinson
Brewington	Gaetjen
Vizard	Kilen

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