

Sevens Heaven: The Eagles' Pacific Tour

by Emil Signes
(U.S. 7s Manager)

Australia, Fiji and Hong Kong
March 8-29, 1993

"I have seen the future of sevens rugby and it's surrounded by the Pacific Ocean."

I wrote an article for *Rugby* in 1987 entitled "Three Weeks in Sevens Heaven," detailing a three-week sevens tour of Hong Kong, Sydney and Melbourne. This article is a description of yet another glorious three-week sevens tour: the U.S. Eagles' 1993 trip through Australia, Fiji and Hong Kong.

World Cup Buildup

With the first-ever Rugby World Cup Sevens to take place in Murrayfield, Scotland in April of this year, the U.S. has been one of several nations to take a serious approach to preparing its team for the event.

During the period of March 8 through March 29, the Eagles participated in a three-week sevens tour designed to help prepare the squad for the World Cup.

Three Tournaments

The tournaments included the Canberra Festival Sevens, a one-day event held on Saturday March 13; the Fiji International Sevens, held on Friday and Saturday March 19 and 20; and the Cathay Pacific Hongkong Bank Sevens, held on



The U.S. Eagle Sevens Team in Canberra: (FRONT, L-R) - Telkamp, O'Brien, Billups, Hein, Hinkin, Dujakovich. (BACK) - Signes (manager), Brewer, Vizard, Ridnell, Dean, Finkel (coach).

Saturday and Sunday March 27-28.

The tournament results are summarized in the table below.

Eagle Selections

Eagle selections were made at the National Sevens Camp held in Phoenix on the weekend of January 16-17, 1993. The original intent was to

select the same ten players for all three events, but this was not possible because of work commitments.

The selections were as follows:

Player	Tournaments
Gary Hein	C F H
Jon Hinkin	C F H
Mike Telkamp	C F H
Chris O'Brien	C F H
Andy Dujakovich	C F H
Brian Vizard	C F H
Tom Brewer	C F H
Tom Billups	C F -
Tony Ridnell	C F -
David Dean	C - -
Scott Stephens	- F H
Will Brewington	- - H
Jim Burgett	- - H

Steve Finkel and I were the coach and manager, respectively, for all three tournaments, and Gary Hein was the squad captain.

Pool B was the deepest pool of the three, containing Australia, New South Wales, and Canterbury, the New Zealand provincial sevens champion.

The U.S. was joined in **Pool C** by Western Samoa and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), a breeding ground for future Wallabies.

Fiji headed **Pool D**, which also comprised Queensland and Hong Kong.

Australia

The Australian side comprised a bunch of unknown players masquerading as a national side. This was due to other rugby commitments by players who would certainly have been first choices (Lynagh, Campese, Little, Horan, Gavin, etc.) To have these players miss this tournament was understandable, but I also found out that virtually all would be missing from the World Cup at Edinburgh as well.

There appeared to be two main reasons -- one was the newly insti-

tuted "Super 10" series, a competition among the top provinces in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, in addition to Western Samoa.

A second was the refusal of Michael Lynagh's Italian club side to release him from club commitments on the week of the World Cup. And this is supposed to be an amateur sport?

Supposedly, all the top players would be available for Hong Kong, however, and there seemed to be conflict among Australian selectors as to which team to send to Hong Kong -- the team that would be representing its nation at the World Cup or the best possible team for Hong Kong.

Super 10

The Super 10 series is a new competition that will take place during April and May 1993. The ten participants are broken up into the following two groups of five:

Group 1

Western Samoa
Queensland
Otago
Auckland
Natal

Group 2

Waikato
North Harbour
New South Wales
Northern Transvaal
Transvaal

The competition is an important one, and I heard rumors that players will share in the gate of this amateur competition.

At any rate, 8 of the 10 participants will be competing on the weekend of the Rugby World Cup Sevens and there is no doubt that the Super 10 will have a negative influence on the availability of players from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Western Samoa.

Both Queensland and New South Wales had declared that they would not release their top players from Super 10 commitments to play in the Rugby World Cup Sevens. The grapevine tells me New Zealand and South African provinces will have the same attitude.

Western Samoa seems to be more sympathetic to release its players,

Canberra, Fiji and Hong Kong Tournament Results

	Championship Competitions
Canberra 7s	1) Western Samoa 2) Canada
Fiji 7s	1) Fiji 2) Suva
Hong Kong 7s	1) Western Samoa 2) Fiji
	Plate (2nd-Tier) Competitions
Canberra 7s	1) Canterbury 2) Fiji [B]
Fiji 7s	1) New Zealand [B] 2) Australia [B]
Hong Kong 7s	1) Tonga 2) Italy
	Bowl (3rd-Tier) Competitions
Canberra 7s	1) New South Wales 2) ACT
Fiji 7s	1) Canada 2) Solomon Islands
Hong Kong 7s	1) Romania 2) Papua New Guinea

The Eagles went out in the first round of the Plate competition in all three tournaments.

Canberra 7s

Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Club

The sponsor of the Canberra 7s, the Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union and Amateur Sports Club is, according to all accounts, not only the richest club in Australia, but the most profitable rugby club in the world. It has an annual profit of more than \$1,500,000 per year, derived from a multitude of functions and gaming machines.

Their goal for this tournament, besides creating a great event in its own right, is to position it as a successor to Hong Kong in the event that the future beyond 1997 does not bode well for the admitted leader among world sevens events.

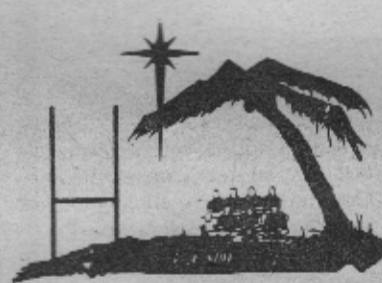
The tournament itself is not a money maker; last year the club lost more than \$40,000, and this year fared only slightly better. The hope is, of course, to eventually turn it into a money maker. Given the history of this club, one wouldn't bet against it.

Participants

There were only 12 teams in the tournament, but not a weak side among them:

Pool A included Scotland, Canada, and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) -- third to New South Wales and Queensland among Australian state sides.

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but as some play provincial rugby in New Zealand, they will probably be impacted as well.

I've often criticized the Home Nations in the past for their refusal to commit national sides to Hong Kong, while commending the Southern Hemisphere nations for doing so. Now I'm afraid the shoe is on the other foot, and the Southern Hemisphere nations are giving the Rugby World Cup Sevens short shrift by their attitude.

Fiji

With its primary focus on a) retaining its Hong Kong Sevens title and b) winning the Rugby World Cup Sevens in Edinburgh, Fiji chose to send a "B" side to Canberra. Given its incredible depth (a Fijian club side defeated Western Samoa to win the Benidorm Sevens in Spain last year), Fiji felt this side would still be good enough to win the tournament.

Scotland, Canada, and the U.S.

All three of these nations were using this three-week tour as a buildup for the World Cup; it was a magnificent opportunity for all to prepare and to learn, both about themselves and their opposition.

Bruce Stadium

The games were held at Bruce Stadium, the home of all important field events in the ACT.

The Eagles had visited this field twice before the tournament; first to familiarize themselves with the field, and second to see the Canberra Raiders Rugby League team open the Winfield Cup season.

Rugby League

It's only when spending time in Australia during rugby season that one realizes that, although Rugby Union does have a following, Rugby League is unquestionably the NFL of this part of the country. It dominates the newspapers and is one of the leading topics of conversation.

The main sporting topic of conversation in Canberra was the opening game of the season, to be held on Friday night between the Canberra Raiders and St. George. Nearly 20,000 fans turned out to the game, more than double the attendance at the sevens.

Those fans included, to the chagrin of many of the organizers of the 7s, not only the Eagles, but most of the visiting teams at the Canberra Tournament.

Ridnell and Brewer

Tom Brewer had been selected to the World Cup team ahead of Tony Ridnell, and Tony made no secret of his disappointment (who would?)

On Thursday's training session, Tom felt something funny in his knee, and by Friday it had gotten worse. Following Friday evening's reception for the teams, Australian trainer Greg Craig looked at Tom's knee.

As I looked on, and it started to become likely that Tom would not be available, I was struck by the fact that Tony would now be on the team. The notion of one player's misfortune becoming another's fortune was somewhat disconcerting. But, of course, it happens all the time.

Brian Vizard

Brian Vizard had intended to retire following the 1991 15s World Cup. After an injury cut his participation short, however, he decided to try to make the 1993 Sevens World Cup squad. He did, easily, and Brian has now begun to play the "Vizard farewell tour" for all it's worth.

The Canberra Festival

The Canberra Festival is an annual week-long celebration with more than 80 events, including parades, opera, rock, jazz, a hot-air balloon festival, boat races, a food and wine festival, a raft regatta, and last but not least the Canberra Festival Sevens.

The Canberra Festival Sevens

The tournament took place on a beautiful late summer Saturday, with temperatures in the 70s and the sun shining. The first game started at 2 PM, and the final at 9:40, with a crowd of about 8,000 in attendance.

Pool A

Scotland, the tournament's top seed, went out early, surprised (in some's view) by Canada, 24-14. Canada now holds three victories over Scotland in the last three years - two in sevens and one in fifteens.

Pool B

All three teams in this pool ended up 1-1, and Australia came within one disputed try from being in the Bowl competition. In their first game, they suffered a stunning loss to Canterbury, 24-7. When Canterbury lost to NSW, Australia needed 39 points to get into the Cup. In the last minute of its game against NSW, a try was awarded to Australia after a player had clearly hit the corner post before touching down. With a proper referee's decision, Australia would have been in the Bowl. As it was, they made the Cup round.

Australia played poorly and it seemed clear that its depth was not sufficient to put out second tier players and win first class tournaments. Australia's selection appeared careless.

Pool C

My pre-tourney favorite Western Samoa (seeded third) began by taking apart the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) 47-0 and followed with an equally impressive 40-5 win over the Eagles.

The U.S. showed tremendous poise and excellent ball handling skills in its 31-10 win over AIS.

Pool D

The big surprise was coach Jeff Miller's Queensland team, which stunned Fiji, 21-14.

Having lost speedster Stewart Brew and experienced hooker Gary Cross to injuries, Hong Kong was clearly out of its depth with these big boys.

Bowl

The Bowl competition was won by New South Wales over the Australian Capital Territory. Hong Kong and AIS finished the tournament winless.

Plate

The Plate teams were Fiji, Scotland, Canterbury and the U.S. Canterbury won this competition with an exciting 14-12 win over Fiji, including 3 final minutes of desperate defense.

Cup

Canada, the big surprise with its win over Scotland, followed up by defeating Fiji-slayers, Queensland (19-12), in the Cup semifinals. Canada played excellently on the weekend, and was the big surprise with its 2nd place finish to Western Samoa, 31-10.

Western Samoa was clearly the best team of the tournament. Although this tournament was part of Samoa's preparation for the Hong Kong and World Cup Sevens, they would send a "B" team to the next stop in Fiji, and take their top side back home for a week of camp.

EAGLE MATCHES

The Eagles' big win over AIS showed that the team's experience and sevens knowledge are good enough to defeat a very athletic team from a top rugby nation.

Furthermore, brief spells (2-3 minutes) of excellent sevens in both the Samoa and Canterbury matches indicated that we are capable of playing good sevens even against top teams. When we are patient and use our ball handling to its potential, when we can pressurize opponents and deal with pressure ourselves, we do well.

Unfortunately, against the "big boys," we never seem to be able to string our strengths together for 14 minutes.

USA 5, Western Samoa 40

- 1 Vizard
2 Billups
3 Ridnell
4 Dujakovich
5 O'Brien (T)
6 Telkamp
7 Dean

The highlight of this game for the Eagles was a world-class run by wing David "Dixie" Dean, who went 50 yards down the right sideline to the goal line, where he fed Chris O'Brien for a beautiful try. The next two minutes were also well played. Western Samoa cranked it into another gear, however, and by half-time the score was 19-5. The second half was a blowout.

USA 31, AIS 10

- 1 Vizard (T)
2 Billups
3 Ridnell (T)
4 Dujakovich
5 O'Brien (3C)
6 Hein (T)
7 Dean (2T)

This game didn't start out auspiciously for the Eagles, as AIS scored the first try on a short chip kick and follow. After that, the game was all Eagles.

Tony Ridnell started the Eagle scoring with a 20-yard try following a Gary Hein break.

Andy Dujakovich was caught after a long break, but left the ball on the ground where Brian Vizard made a spectacular one-handed pick up and dove across for the score.

The Eagles added another half-time score when Dean made a long run following an O'Brien loop of Hein.

AIS began the second half as they'd begun the first, with a try following a penalty against the Eagles. Miscommunication in the Eagle backfield allowed the AIS wing to score in the corner.

Next it was the Eagles' turn to score from a penalty play, as the Eagles' Dubai play led to a Gary Hein score.

The Eagles' final try was a beautiful exhibition of patient sevens play, finished up with passes from Ridnell to Tom Billups to Hein to Dean who finally scored. Three of the five tries were converted by O'Brien.

USA 7, Canterbury 29

- 1 Vizard
2 Billups
3 Ridnell
4 Dujakovich
5 Telkamp (C)
6 Hein
7 Hinkin (T)

The Canterbury game began with excellent play by the Eagles: with space on the right sideline, Mike Telkamp made a break with Jon Hinkin in support. After straightening out the opposition, Mike passed to Jon who broke a tackle and headed for the line. Unfortunately the touch judge's flag was up and the play was called back. The Eagles stole the next lineout, but Gary Hein was tackled in possession and Canterbury scored in what was basically a 12-point turnaround.

From that point to one minute from the end, Canterbury dominated, and it wasn't until the final play of the game that Jon Hinkin was able to score.

A Day in Sydney

Prior to our Wednesday departure to Fiji, we spent a day in Sydney where Steve Finkel ran two training sessions. The second was held at the practice ground of the top Australian club Manly.

I watched a Manly practice conducted by head coaches Geoff Mould

and Bruce Malouf. Manly has brought in 6 new coaches this year to improve its program. Most are from the Randwick system and are trying to introduce the tight, flat back line running game to Manly. Bob Dwyer noted that several Randwick alums are now coaching top Sydney clubs, trying to bring to them the same philosophy that Dwyer brought to the national team.

Interestingly enough, Manly has a requirement that all players stop in the clubhouse after practice, where the social environment is felt to contribute to the process of team building.

Scott Stephens flew in to Sydney Wednesday to meet the team on its way to Sydney. Scott was a planned replacement for Dixie Dean, who was leaving, but we couldn't afford to replace Brewer on such short notice and went to Fiji with 9 players.

Fiji 7s

A Dream Fulfilled

I began coaching sevens in 1977, the first year that Fiji won the Hong Kong Sevens. For both personal (childhood dreams of a tropical paradise) and rugby reasons, I have wanted to visit Fiji for virtually my entire life.

When we finally stepped off the plane on Wednesday March 17, my dream was finally fulfilled. And when the first two episodes upon deplaning were having a salu salu (lei) placed around my neck and drinking a bowl of kava at the airport, I knew this was going to be a great trip.

Fiji

Once known as the Cannibal Islands, Fiji was converted to Christianity in the 19th century; now approximately 80% of the ethnic Fijians are Methodists.

Ethnic Fijians belong to the group of island people known as Melanesians for their dark skin.

Ethnic Fijians, however, are actually slightly outnumbered (or were in 1986) by ethnic Indians. The Indians, descendants of indentured laborers recruited in Bengal by the British colonizers, not only gained the majority of the population, but also led a political group that captured the Fijian elections of 1987. A subsequent coup led by Sitiveni

Rabuka reclaimed the islands for ethnic Fijians, restricted Indian rights, and has led to some Indian emigration.

Ethnic Fijians, at any rate, constitute nearly 100% of the rugby players in Fiji.

Now the Prime Minister, Colonel Rabuka is, ironically, also the president of the fledgling Fijian Rugby League.

322 Islands

Fiji comprises 322 islands, more than 100 of which are inhabited. 70% of the population lives on the main island of Viti Levu, and an additional 18% on Vanua Levu. The population of these islands is slightly more Indian than Fijian. Most of the other islands consist almost exclusively of ethnic Fijians, except for Rotuma (Polynesian) and Rambi (Micronesian).

The Fiji Rugby Union

No one knows exactly when rugby was introduced to Fiji, but the Fiji Rugby Union dates back to 1913. Regardless what we think of the Christian missionaries, we must all be grateful to the "rugby missionaries" of Britain; the introduction of rugby to the Pacific islands has finally resulted in a revolution in the game of seven-a-side rugby.

"White Men Can't Run"

"White men can't run," read the headline of a recent Sports Illustrated article on wide receivers in the NFL; Fiji and the other Pacific islanders seem to be demonstrating a similar trend in sevens: At the very top level, it ain't no white boys' game any more!

On to Suva

A 2 1/2 hour bus trip was required to reach Suva where we were once again garlanded with salu salu and had dinner before retiring after a long day.

Accompanying us on the bus was our liaison, Jone Ratu, who was to spend the week with us and become an exceptionally good friend. Jone represented Fiji 13 times between 1979 and 1985, and played in Twickenham and Murrayfield during Fiji's 1982 tour.

At dinner we realized not only how popular rugby was, but also Americans: our pins were exceptionally hot items. I called Will Brewington to tell him that unless he could get some more from Matt

(Continued on Page 10)

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Fiji 7s:

(Continued from Page 9)

Godek Rugby Supply to bring with him, there would be no pins in Hong Kong.

Thursday

Thursday, the day before the tournament, we had a 1 1/2-hour training session to go over some details and to acclimate to the climate (about 85 and humid). The Scots had warned us to watch out for frogs and snakes on the pitch; we saw plenty of frogs, but no snakes.

Within 5 minutes of our arrival, Fijians started appearing at the side of the field to check us out. Jone got his boots on and contributed significantly to our 5-on-5 game.

National Stadium

We trained just across the street from the National Stadium and wandered over later to check it out. The seating area was small (about 4,000 permanent seats with 2,000 more added for this event), but the hillside was steep, and the capacity of the ground was nearly 30,000.

Scott Stephens' travel had apparently induced a case of the flu, and we faced the prospect of playing as many as 6 games with only 8 healthy people.

Sulu Number Ones

Thursday evening there was a mayor's reception in honor of the participating teams, and number ones were the dress of the day. At the suggestion of our skipper, we decided to wear Fiji-style number ones, dress shirt and tie with the skirt-like bottoms the Fijians call sulus.

Jone took us into town, where we purchased dress navy blue sulus to match our tops for less than \$10 each. The sulus were a hit and they were to be our official number ones until our arrival in Hong Kong.

Parade

The 2-day tournament began on Friday (as a strict Methodist country, there are no games in Fiji on Sunday), and although the first game was not until 1:30 PM, we had to meet at 8:30 AM for a parade through Suva. This was an incredible event: the whole city, Indian and Fijian alike, thronged the streets and cheered as our bus participated in a long parade through the city.

The preliminary ceremonies at the stadium began at 11 AM and included ceremonial dances, a kava



The U.S. Eagles and the Fijians who came out to play on Mana Island's "Field of Dreams".

ceremony and speeches -- in both Fijian and English. Prime Minister Rabuku twice noted that, although he was opening a Rugby Union tournament, he was the president of the Fiji Rugby League.

The first game was between the U.S. and Fiji and these two teams were introduced to the Prime Minister. I presented him with one of our Matt Godek "stars and stripes" balls, one of the tour's biggest hits, and reminded him that it was a rugby union ball.

Pool Play

In the pool listings below, all teams with asterisks are Fijian provincial sides.

Pool 1

1 Fiji	3-0
2 Tavua*	2-1
3 U.S.	1-2
4 Solomon Isles	0-3

The opening game featured Fiji vs. the Eagles. Fiji scored quickly, but the U.S. answered back in the second minute with an excellent Jon Hinkin try. Fiji took a 12-7 lead into a second half in which it outscored the Eagles 23-0.

The 7 points the U.S. scored against Fiji were to be the most by

any team against the eventual champs.

In the U.S.'s second game, several mistakes helped lead to a 26-7 Tavua win (12-7 at half). Coach Steve Finkel was furious with the team's performance and let them know it. Although the team didn't play well, the fact that all Fijian provincial sides made the quarterfinals says something about the level of competition we were facing.

Pool 2

1 Nadi *	3-0
2 Tonga	2-1
3 Australia	1-2
4 Cook Islands	0-3

Political bickering within the ranks of the Australian Rugby Union (ARU), plus the hope among some of the ARU hierarchy that sevens will "disappear", led to another inexperienced side representing the 15s world champs. Even in the first game against the Cook Islands, Australia was in moderate difficulty; leading only 12-5 with less than a minute to go and the opposition in possession in the Aussie half.

All knowledgeable Fiji followers reckoned there was no way Australia could beat Nadi, a provincial side that had beaten Fiji the week before. They were right: Nadi thumped the Aussies even better than Tavua had beaten the Eagles, 35-5.

During this week it began to appear that the logjam on getting Australia's best team to Edinburgh might be breaking. Rumor had it that the selectors were thinking of just selecting the team, announcing it to the press, and letting the Australian Rugby Union explain why so many top players were missing.

One of the biggest upsets of the day, however, had to be Tonga's 14-12 victory over Australia, in a game filled with Wallaby errors. This victory, followed by Rewa's defeat of Canada, eliminated all but island nations from the quarterfinals.

Pool 3

1 Suva *	3-0
2 Rewa *	1-2
3 New Zealand	1-2
4 Canada	1-2

Pool 3 wasn't supposed to be so tough. American Samoa, a confirmed entry, was a no-show, and it was a big disappointment to Steve Finkel, who looked forward to checking out some Samoans with American passports. The organizers substituted a Fijian club, Nakelo, playing under the banner of its province, Rewa.

This pool produced perhaps the most bizarre results of the tournament. First New Zealand (actually a "B" side, but wearing the All Black jerseys) barely defeated Rewa 14-12 with a last-second try.

Next Canada produced a shocking upset of New Zealand with an inspired 12-7 victory. The Canadian jubilation after the game was unrestrained and the crowd reacted appreciatively.

The Rewa vs. Canada match was the pool decider. A Canada win would have put them in the Cup. More interesting, however, was the possibility that New Zealand could end up in the Bowl competition. This would have happened had Rewa won and Canada scored a converted try. Canada scored a last-second try, but failed to convert and, disappointingly, ended up in the Bowl after beating the All Blacks.

Nevertheless, after two weeks, Canada had only 3 losses to mar its record -- to two Fijian provincial sides and to Western Samoa.

Pool 4

1 Nadroga *	3-0
2 W. Samoa	2-1
3 Scotland	1-2
4 Vanuatu	0-3

Scotland had already proven in Canberra that it had a long way to go to present any kind of challenge at the World Cup in Edinburgh, and this second weekend confirmed those observations. They played gallantly in a 12-7 loss to Nadroga, but lost handily to Western Samoa's "B" team 19-0. Samoa themselves lost to Nadroga 12-7.

Everyone beat Vanuatu, a third-world rugby nation (formerly the New Hebrides) which was the weakest team in the tournament.

Pool Summary

At the conclusion of pool play, the quarterfinalists included Fiji, 5 Fijian provinces, Western Samoa, and Tonga -- an all-island group of eight.

Left to play off for 9th place (Plate) were Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, and the U.S.

The Bowl bracket contained Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, and Canada.

I have seen the future of sevens rugby and it's surrounded by the Pacific Ocean.

Bowl

Canada won the Bowl in a walk. Having disposed of New Zealand, there was no way they could be troubled by either Vanuatu (48-0) or the Solomons, whom they beat 64-0 in the final. The trophy was, of

course, a kava bowl, with a small replica for each player.

Plate

New Zealand looked to have regained some of Friday's lost pride, as it easily put away Scotland (38-5) and Australia (31-12) in the final.

Cup

The Cup was an exciting competition with 8 athletic island teams battling it out. To reach the final Fiji beat Western Samoa (35-0) in the quarterfinals and Nadi (26-5) in the semifinals.

In the Cup final, Fiji seemed to justify the selection committee, with an easy 26-0 defeat of Suva. Fijian selectors had been heavily criticized for the omission of certain players from the squad, and the Fiji players, led by captain Waisali Serevi, had been fighting for vindication.

EAGLE MATCHES

Pool Play:

U.S. 7, Fiji 35

- 1 Vizard
- 2 Billups
- 3 Ridnell
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien (C)
- 6 Hein
- 7 Hinkin (T)

The Eagles actually had a good first half in this game, and competed as well as one could hope. The second half was another story.

Jon Hinkin did, however, become the first to notch a score for a U.S. team against a Fijian national side in both soccer and rugby.

U.S. 7, Tavua 26

- 1 Vizard
- 2 Billups
- 3 Stephens *
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien (T, C)
- 6 Hein
- 7 Telkamp

* replaced by Ridnell

The Eagles' only try occurred early in the game when pressure defense at the kickoff resulted in a Chris O'Brien try. They hung in at 7-12 until midway through the second half, when their mistakes let them down. Finkel was furious; in retrospect, however, it might have been just another game against Fiji.

U.S. 19, Solomon Islands 7

- 1 Ridnell
- 2 Billups
- 3 Stephens *
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien (T)
- 6 Hein
- 7 Hinkin (2T)

* replaced by Vizard

The Eagles scored first on the Dubai penalty play, when Dujakovich ran through a gap into the Solomon's 22, where the passing sequence was Dujakovich, Hein, Stephens, Hinkin.

The next try was by the speedy Solomon Island wing who smoked us for an 80-yard try.

With the halftime score 7-7 what should have been an easy win was looking hairy. Then Hinkin followed with a move on the Solomon wing and scored a 70-yard try.

On the ensuing kickoff, both Tony Ridnell and Brian Vizard drove the ball upfield against the smaller islanders and set up a sideline gap for Chris O'Brien, who scored a 50-yard try to close the game at 19-7.

Although we played well, Canada's 64-0 win over the Solomons showed the potential for scoring was greater than we had realized.

Plate Semifinal:

Australia 38, Eagles 0

- 1 Vizard
- 2 Billups
- 3 Stephens
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien
- 6 Telkamp
- 7 Hein

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The Plate semifinal was an unmitigated disaster in which the U.S. did nothing right.

The Press

I've always thought that the Hong Kong press wrote a lot during the build up to the Sevens and on the day following, but they're pikers compared to the Fijian press.

Sevens dominated the paper virtually every day we were there, as well as the two or three days that followed. Photographs of all the visiting teams as they arrived at the airports, profiles of top players from all the visiting clubs, interviews galore, letters to the editor criticizing the national selectors: it was like reading an entire *Rugby Magazine* every day. Two really, as the *Post* and *Times* vied for readership with their sevens coverage.

Post-Mortem

This was probably the toughest international sevens tournament ever. It could probably be tougher only if it were restricted to island sides -- a fact that both New Zealand and Australia have recognized in their recruitment of islanders for their own national sides.

Canada

Despite its Bowl appearance in Fiji, Canada had scored three stunning victories in 2 weeks, defeating Scotland (26-14), Queensland (19-12), and New Zealand (12-7).

To those of us that have formalized sevens programs, Canada's success is somewhat frustrating: dedicating very little of their time to sevens, and picking the squad from its 15s short list, Canada has, nonetheless, produced a number of sevens successes.

The Canadian squad for this tour, coached by Ian Birtwell and managed by Rod Holloway, comprised Al Charron, Ian Gordon, John Graf, Steve Gray, David Lougheed, Julian Loveday, Gord McKinnon, Pat Palmer, Scott Stewart, and Chris Tynan.

Free Days in Fiji

On Sunday we travelled from Suva to Nadi, where we were to spend two days until our Tuesday departure for Hong Kong.

Drinking Kava in Rukurukulevu

On our way, we visited Jone's hometown of Rukurukulevu, a small village of about 300 people. There we participated in an ancient ritual that the Eagle team members found extremely moving.

We were led into a house that had been specially prepared as a meeting place for guests, where a large kava bowl occupied the center of the floor. As guests, we were lined up opposite the kava bowl, next to the chief, and seated Buddha-style. The village men were on the other side behind the bowl and the women were in the back.

Following tradition, we had purchased some waka (kava root) to present to the village chief, Dr. Apnisa Kurisaqila (a former Fijian international, and currently a government minister). I gave a brief explanation of our visit to accompany the sevu (presentation). This was followed by a ritual thanks for our offering from the villagers, who then returned an offering of kava to us. Following this, the traditional drinking of the kava began.

Following our initial bowl of kava, we all formally introduced ourselves to the assembled villagers, describing our home towns and rugby positions and achievements. Being as rugby mad as any nation in the world, they were impressed with all the rugby achievements of the group (and doubtless pleased with the fact that they lived in a land free of 2-foot snowfalls).

Following a second bowl of kava, we got to meet the village children and were taken on a tour of the village -- including the Methodist church, certainly the grandest building of the village.

I snuck back in for a third bowl of kava before we left.

Kava

Called yanqona (pron. yanggonā) in Fijian, kava is a tranquilizing, non-alcoholic drink which numbs the tongue and lips. It comes from the waka (dried root) of the pepper plant. Its ceremonial preparation and consumption is the most honored feature of the formal life of Fijians, Tongans, and Samoans.

What I hadn't realized was how prevalent kava drinking was. We were treated to kava upon arrival at the airport and again at the hotel. If one needed to find our liaisons late at night, they could always be found in Room 131 drinking kava. At the mayor's reception, as well as the normal alcohol bar, there was a huge bowl of kava for those who preferred that drink. The kava ceremony was an official part of the sevens tourney, and the very last thing we saw before departing the Nadi airport was a group of Fijians sitting on the airport floor drinking kava.

Bula!

MANA ISLAND

Australian Bob Challenor, who was instrumental in assisting the Fiji RU get this tournament off the ground, has a home-away-from-home on Mana Island, where he has been involved in helping to organize the village rugby team.

Bob invited us to visit him on Mana Island, and, together with the Canadians and the team from Vanuatu, we travelled to Mana on Monday, March 22.

About one hour from Nadi by boat, Mana is what I always pictured when I thought of a small tropical island. Only a couple of miles square, it basically consists of beach and tropical vegetation. There is no fresh water on the island, so it has to be barged in.

Rugby Mad

The Mana Islanders -- all 300 of them -- are dedicated to their rugby, though. Recently their "B" side made a 3-day trip just to play a match with a team on another, distant, Fijian island.

Bob had recently taken the Mana Island sevens team on a tour of Australia. To foster a sense of responsibility, he asked every player to raise \$350. With an average weekly salary of \$35, this was not very easy, but with the help of various fund raisers, the goal was reached.

The Mana Island team toured Sydney, participating in two sevens tournaments and defeating Warringah 35-19 in an exhibition sevens match. In all, this team from an island village of 300 souls outscored its Aussie opponents 384-79 in 13 games of sevens.

Brother Clubs

Challenor has been exploring a "brother club" concept, whereby clubs in wealthier nations become "brothers" to poorer Fijian clubs. The contribution may consist simply of used jerseys -- as a jersey in Fiji costs an average of 2 1/2 weeks salary, these can be extremely useful gifts.

Field of Dreams

One of the strangest, yet most wonderful moments on the tour took place on Mana Island. Intending to get in one last training session prior to leaving for Hong Kong the next day, Finkel had the Eagles playing a little 4-on-4 rugby on the cyclone-damaged rugby pitch.

The pitch was surrounded by trees and shrubs, and within a few minutes, the first Fijian arrived through

the shrubbery. Then a second. Suddenly, as in a scene from *Field of Dreams*, there were nearly a dozen Fijians sitting at the side of the pitch lacing up their boots. Within 15 minutes, a friendly 7-on-7 game of "grab" began which lasted the better part of an hour. Amazing!

Leaving the field of dreams, we went for a swim in unbelievably clear water. Some of the players went water skiing, while Bob and I shared a couple of gin and tonics.

The boat ride back to Nadi was a barrel of laughs, with alternating beautiful Fijian music and rowdy American singing filling the upper deck. Between Jone's village on Sunday and Mana Island on Monday, these had been two of the better days of everyone's lives.

Hong Kong 7s

Tuesday March 23 was a travel day and the 9-hour Cathay Pacific flight was replete with reminders of the sevens. A news spot appeared on the screen, and a feature in Cathay's *Discovery* magazine, entitled "The Road to Rasari," was a sensitive description of rugby as a way of life in Fiji.

We arrived in our "Sulu number ones," and met Will Brewington, Jim Burgett and trainer Ed Ayub at the airport. Changing to T-shirts we made our obligatory annual visit to Hong Kong's "Godown" Bar, where we traded shirts with Carol, the proprietor, prior to turning in for the evening.

Wednesday was a demanding day: a long morning session with scrimmages against Canada and Namibia (we looked good against both) was followed by an afternoon session to acquaint Will and Jim with modifications put in the previous two weeks.

Socializing in 'Kong

After training the team went to the Hong Kong International School, where AT&T sponsored its annual "Meet the Eagles" night.

After a formal introduction of the team to the school children, we spent nearly an hour autographing kids' shirts. This was followed by a junk ride to Lamma Island for a gigantic seafood meal.

Thursday

On Thursday we scrimmaged the Samoans, and several members of the assembled press were impressed with the pressure we exerted on a team some were touting to challenge Fiji for the championship. A Thursday night cocktail party at the American club finished our socializing for the week.

A quiet day Friday was followed by an early evening and the squad went in to the tournament feeling ready.

The Hong Kong Sevens

Many years ago Jim Hoehn wrote in *Rugby* that "simply labeling the Hong Kong Sevens a 'rugby tournament' ... is a bit like calling a Ferrari 'just another sports car'."

Hong Kong is not only the greatest rugby event in the world, but also among the greatest sporting events in the world.

Players from 24 different countries interacting both as friends and as bitter opponents, and more than 30,000 celebrating (yet rugby-wise) fans settled in for a two-day feast of sevens and associated entertainment, make for an unrivaled experience.

This year, in addition, there were two novelties at the Hong Kong Sevens -- the partially completed new stadium and South Africa.

Hong Kong Stadium

Monday morning following the 1992 Hong Kong Sevens, the old Government Stadium was torn down and a new stadium begun. Not scheduled to be completed until 1994, it was, nonetheless, used in a partially completed state for the 1993 sevens.

While seated in the players' area, we were visited by Ron Labinski, Senior Vice President of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK), the architects who designed the new stadium.

HOK were the architects for Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Joe Robbie Stadium, the new Comiskey Park, the Bradley Center arena in Milwaukee, Anaheim Arena, and many other highly praised sports facilities. Hong Kong Stadium promises to belong in their class.

Of the currently available 33,000 seats, all were filled by Sunday and it is hoped that crowds will fill the stadium when its capacity reaches 40,000 in 1994.

Given some of the monsoon conditions that have taken place in Hong Kong in the past (1980, 1983, 1992), organizers were really taking a

(Continued on Page 12)

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Hong Kong 7s:

(Continued from Page 11)

chance by holding the event in a stadium where no seats were under cover. Luck shone on the event, however, as not a drop of rain fell, despite forecasts to the contrary.

By 1994, the stadium will be complete and most of its seats will be under cover.

South Africa

After a long absence from the international rugby scene, South Africa has rejoined both the 15s and 7s rugby worlds. Despite the existence of a few tournaments, however, sevens is virtually unknown in South Africa. The Springboks, therefore, were a true unknown -- other than the fact that they were big, strong, and possessed lots of rugby skills.

Although the South African team was entirely white, they were accompanied by a "colored" [South African terminology] manager, Millin Peterson.

Pre-Tournament Preparation

Since Fiji has become virtually a sevens country during the last few years, their top players have had many opportunities to play together.

Western Samoa also came exceptionally well prepared. After an extensive trial period, they played together in Canberra, and had a camp in the intervening time.

By these standards, New Zealand did not train long; although by their previous standards they took this tournament very seriously. They arrived in Hong Kong on the previous Saturday, three days earlier than usual, and were all business.

Australia, while fielding as strong a team (in terms of personnel) as possible, had virtually no time together, as their stars assembled from the four corners of the earth.

Scotland, which had a bye during the last Five Nations weekend, took advantage of it to attend both the Canberra and Fiji tournaments, whereas Wales and Ireland headed straight to Hong Kong after their last Five Nations games. South Africa, too, had little time to train.

Among the other nations, Canada, the U.S., and Hong Kong had played in tournaments prior to the Sevens.

Pre-Tourney Picks

Fiji were the clear favorites, with various factions giving New



Eagle wing Jon Hinkin runs in a try during the Eagles' 42-0 rout of Singapore at the 1993 Hong Kong 7s.

Zealand, Western Samoa, and Australia a shot at the title.

Pool Play

There are eight pools of three teams at Hong Kong, seeded 1 through 3 in each pool. Normally there are very few upsets, and this year was no exception. The only one-two reversal was Canada-Wales, where Canada had been picked as the number-one seed. Following its great showings the previous two weeks, there were very few people that doubted Canada's ability to beat Wales.

Devastated by injury, however, Canada was used by the Welsh, who posted a shocking 40-0 win.

Perhaps the biggest upset of the day was Taiwan's defeat of Korea, a semifinalist last year beating both Canada and the Barbarians.

Another upset occurred in Pool C, where the seeds were 1) Ireland, 2) Hong Kong, and 3) Italy. Despite the good play of Hong Kong during the last few years, this year's team has a serious lack of pace, and this showed in its losses to both Italy and Ireland. The inclusion of both Hong Kong and Korea in the Bowl led most observers to feel that one or the

other would certainly emerge as Bowl champions.

In their match against each other, Ireland squeezed out a 7-5 win over Italy in what was probably the worst match of the weekend. Based on this match, the Eagles felt confident of a possible upset of Ireland in the World Cup.

Pool A	
1 Fiji	2-0
2 Namibia	1-1
3 Malaysia	0-2
Pool B	
1 Wales	2-0
2 Canada	1-1
3 Papua New Guinea	0-2
Pool C	
1 Ireland	2-0
2 Italy	1-1
3 Hong Kong	0-2
Pool D	
1 Australia	2-0
2 U.S. Eagles	1-1
3 Singapore	0-2
Pool E	
1 W. Samoa	2-0
2 Japan	1-1
3 Thailand	0-2
Pool F	
1 Scotland	2-0
2 Tonga	1-1
3 Romania	0-2
Pool G	
1 So. Africa	2-0
2 Argentina	1-1
3 Sri Lanka	0-2
Pool H	
1 New Zealand	2-0
2 Taiwan	1-1
3 Korea	0-2

Bowl: Romania

Sunday's competition began with the Bowl quarterfinals, after which Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Romania and Korea remained alive -- a very strong Bowl quartet indeed.

Papua New Guinea followed with a relatively easy 26-12 defeat of Hong Kong, a result that does not bode well for the Crown Colony in Edinburgh. It also makes one wonder why PNG wasn't even invited to the World Cup qualifier.

Romania snuck past Korea 12-7, and the team that made it to the Cup semifinal a year ago with an upset victory over the Barbarians was eliminated.

In the Bowl final, Papua New Guinea held a 14-0 lead through most of the game. They faded badly, however, in the end, and Romania got its second consecutive Bowl championship with a 17-14 win.

Romania's coach Mircea Paraschiv said that he changed strategy at halftime: "We were giving

them too much room to use their fast backs, so I told our forwards to play the second half like 15s -- to keep the ball and set up positions before releasing the backs."

Romania's wing Catalin Sasu led all Bowl scorers with 7 tries and got an honorable mention for the tournament MVP award.

Plate: Tonga

Namibia beat Canada quite easily (24-7) in the Plate quarterfinals, putting an end to Canada's two-week success story. And in the next game the Eagles lost a heart-breaking overtime match to Italy (reported elsewhere).

Tonga beat Japan (7-5) and Argentina followed with a relatively easy win over Taiwan (35-14).

Italy continued to improve with an easy 19-0 win over Namibia, and Tonga beat Argentina 26-14 in the semifinals.

Italy stretched Tonga well into the second half of the Plate final before the more experienced islanders put them away 38-28.

Nevertheless, Italian coach Wayne Smith, who coached the All Blacks here a year ago, was proud and pleasantly surprised with his team. "I did not expect to be in the final, so they have exceeded all my expectations."

Cup Competition

QUARTERFINALS:

Fiji 33, Wales 7

Although I refer to them as Wales, the team came over as the "Welsh President's VII," the only team allowed to participate this year without an official national designation. The Hong Kong Union had been firm about allowing only national participation, but when the Welsh announced -- at a late date -- the name of their team, Hong Kong backed down. "We were a bit weak on this one," admitted an official later.

At any rate, Wales played well in the first 4 minutes against Fiji, and so it was a surprise to see them down 19-0 at halftime. The final score of 33-7 was just another typical European team vs. Fiji score.

Australia 17, Ireland 12

Ireland's poor performance on Saturday was redeemed by their inspirational game vs. Australia. Ireland tied the game 12-12 in the second half on a kick ahead and a brilliant touchdown by Richard Wallace,

who leapt over David Campese to catch the ball in the air and go in for a beautiful try. Eric Elwood's conversion was no good, however, and the full time score was 12-12.

Matt Burke scored in overtime to win a squeaker for Australia, 17-12. One suspects that had Elwood made his kick, Bob Dwyer may have regretted omitting both Jason Little and Tim Horan from this game.

Western Samoa 28, Scotland 14

Despite the seriousness with which Scotland is taking the World Cup, the depth of their preparation, and their 1991 drubbing of Samoa in the 15s World Cup, at sevens Western Samoa is simply too athletic for Scotland, and this game was never in doubt.

New Zealand 20, South Africa 12

This game began with two quick Kiwi tries in what looked to be a New Zealand rout, but South Africa came back to take a 12-10 lead early in the second half. New Zealand regained its composure, however, and took control in the final minutes to gain a 20-12 win. Eric Rush dominated for the All Blacks, scoring three tries.

SEMIFINALS:

These were both fantastic games, especially the first one.

Fiji 17, Australia 14

Fiji came back from a 14-5 half-time deficit, on some superb play by Waisale Serevi, who scored all of Fiji's points with 3 tries and a conversion (team results and selection panel notwithstanding, he was the player of the tournament). Except for Serevi's magic, Australia actually got the better of Fiji and were unlucky to lose in the end.

Western Samoa 24, New Zealand 14

Western Samoa unleashed tremendous pressure on New Zealand and held a close lead throughout, finally beating them 24-14. This marked the first time that Samoa has beaten New Zealand, and this victory was sweeter to coach Taufusi Salesa than the final over Fiji: "We know we can disrupt Fiji, but New Zealand has always been a psychological problem for us."

FINAL:

Western Samoa 14, Fiji 12

Although hardly an elegant game, this had to be one of the most intense finals in Hong Kong history. The game began with both teams per-

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forming a ceremonial war ritual, No Haka this time: the Fijians began with their cimbi (pronounced thimbi), and the Samoans responded with their own version. When the Samoans finished, they leapt towards the Fijians and ended up almost in their faces.

The show was about to begin! I had been in attendance at the 1990 Sicily Sevens, in which the pool match between these two countries produced the most vicious fight I have ever seen in a rugby match. I was thus concerned that the importance of this match might produce a similar free-for-all. There was one tense moment early in the second half which, luckily, did not get out of hand; it was a brutal but mostly clean game.

Fiji began the scoring with a try by Sakeasi Vonolagi, and Western Samoa responded with a try by Alama Ieremia which Anatelea Aiolupo converted. Samoa now led 7-5.

Last year's MVP, 6'5", 235 lb. Mesake Rasari, played with a heavily-bandaged knee and wasn't much of a factor in this year's 7s, but he did score a try to put Fiji ahead. Waisale Serevi converted, 12-7.

Late in the first half, Alefaio Vaisuai scored what proved to be the winning try, converted by Aiolupo, 14-12.

Vaisuai was put out of the game in the second half, reportedly by Vonolagi. He was replaced with Junior Paramore, a Samoan playing for New Zealand, but named as a reserve for this match after injuries had left the Samoan squad depleted.

The second half of the game was a defensive struggle in which no

points were scored. The game ended as Samoa touched down in their own goal after a fierce Fijian charge on the Samoan line.

It was, in intensity, an incredible match. The unofficial world championship of sevens had moved from Melanesia to Polynesia. We will shortly know where the official championship will reside.

Western Samoa	Fiji
Vaisuai * 1	Rasari
Vaifale 2	Rabaka
Lima 3	Vonolagi
Ieremia 4	Scru
Koko 5	Serevi
Tonu'u 6	Bale
Aiolupo 7	Waki

* replaced by Paramore

Movable Islanders
One of the interesting phenomena of this sevens season is the apparent free movement of South Pacific islanders from one national team to another (some think our club sevens eligibility policies have been soft, but read on):

Junior Paramore was originally selected to the Western Samoa squad, but dropped out in early March when he was chosen to play for the All Blacks. Samoan manager Marina Schaffshausen was crushed, as she had looked after Paramore throughout the Samoan trials period.

Western Samoa got one back, however, when center Lolagi Koko, selected for New Zealand, announced a week before Hong Kong that he would play for Samoa. A good trade, it seems: Koko ended up being the Tournament MVP, and Paramore ended up as a Samoan replacement in the final.

Meanwhile, Fijian wing Paula Bale played for Canterbury (Canberra), New Zealand (Suva), and Fiji (Hong Kong) during the three sevens tourneys, and he is, I think, going to represent New Zealand at the World Cup.

Australia had their own Fijian, Iie Tabua, who proved an imposing presence on their squad.

EAGLE RESULTS

Pool Matches:

Eagles 42, Singapore 0

Although heavy favorites to defeat Singapore, the Eagles did it in a way that impressed: they were working the game plan.

Scott Stephens started the scoring with a 75-yard try by breaking through a gap and followed shortly thereafter with another long run which he "donated" to Andy Dujakovich for a second try. Jon Hinkin, in his first Hong Kong appearance, burned Singapore's speedy wing shortly thereafter and the halftime score was 21-0.

The second half was a virtual repeat of the first, as Will Brewington scored twice and Dujakovich once. Mike Telkamp made all six conversions and the final was 42-0.

- 1 Ridnell
- 2 Brewington (2T)
- 3 Stephens (T)
- 4 Dujakovich (2T)
- 5 Telkamp (6C)
- 6 Hein
- 7 Hinkin (T)

Australia 45, Eagles 0

Having lost to a weaker Australian side the previous week, the odds were certainly against the Eagles in this match. The hope was, however, that Eagle pressure at the ball could take Australia out of its game, and that patience on offense could produce a U.S. score.

Australia put all thoughts of those possibilities out of the way early. First, although the U.S. was able to gain possession early, Andy Dujakovich ran between two Aussies, lost the ball, and before you could say David Campese, he had scored, 7-0.

The Eagles only held the ball twice after that, and both times they gave

it away at a tackle.

The final score was 45-0. Australia had scored 7 tries (Campese 2, Jason Little 2, Iie Tabua, Michael Lynagh and Grant Lodge one each), and Lynagh converted 5 of them.

- 1 Vizard
- 2 Brewington
- 3 Burgett (T)
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien
- 6 Hein
- 7 Hinkin

Plate Quarterfinal: Overtime!

Italy 17, Eagles 12

Italy was the 10th game of the U.S.' three-week tour and only the second "toss-up". Certainly the Eagles were expected to lose to Western Samoa, Canterbury, Fiji, Tavua, and Australia (twice), and expected to win against the Solomon Islands and Singapore. I reckoned the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra as a toss-up, and the U.S. had won that one 31-10.

Despite Italian coach Wayne Smith's elation over their performance, this was not a game that Italy won, but rather one that the Eagles lost. Without our mistakes, the game would have been won in regulation.

At the end of regulation, however, only a great desperation tackle by Jon Hinkin on Marcello Cuttitta saved a loss.

From a scrum early in overtime, Italy executed a beautiful double switch (center/wing/flyhalf), and the Eagle defense responded inadequately. Final score: Italy 17, Eagles 12.

Steve Finkel reserved his comments for later in the day, but when they came, they weren't kind. The Eagles, he noted, needed to demonstrate that they could "step up" to the increased rigors of international rugby better than they had to date.

This was the second year in a row that the Eagles had faulted at the Plate Quarterfinal. Admittedly, the competition in the Plate is getting tougher every year, but nonetheless we consider the Plate Quarterfinal an unacceptable level to exit this tournament.

- 1 Vizard
- 2 Brewington
- 3 Burgett (T)
- 4 Dujakovich
- 5 O'Brien (T, C)
- 6 Hein
- 7 Hinkin

Canada

Following its spectacular successes at Canberra and Fiji, Canada's injuries finally got the best of them, and they exited quietly from this year's Hong Kong Sevens.

Canada pulled in Glenn Ennis, but a second concussion in three weeks -- this time to John Graf -- helped put an end to Canada's hopes for this tournament.

Post-Mortem

IRB president Ewart Bell gave the talk at the managers dinner on Friday night. It was a collection of "British Old Boy" humor. With 24 countries from all over the world in attendance, couldn't there have been something more universal about the presentation?

Although the stadium promises to be a phenomenon, there was a bit of atmosphere missing, and the noise level wasn't as high as in previous years. With a roof scheduled to be on the stadium by next year, and the full 40,000 capacity available for utilization, I expect that this concern will be alleviated.

For the Eagles, there was only one "iron man", as Andy Dujakovich played all 10 games of the tour.

Thanks To AT&T

Although the sponsorship of the host tournaments made our participation possible, even that wouldn't have made it affordable. With USARFU's contribution being the usual cipher, we needed friends to help with internal transportation, kit, additional personnel, etc. (We were underfunded by more than \$20,000.)

AT&T, an annual supporter in Hong Kong, came through again. This time, AT&T - UK provided a major contribution to our World Cup effort (including expenses incurred on this tour, and AT&T - Asia helped again with the Hong Kong portion of the tour). Thank you!

**Leading Scorers:
1993 Hong Kong Sevens**

Name	Team	Pts.	T	C	DG
Waisale Serevi	Fiji	86	10	18	0
Michael Lynagh	Australia	38	2	14	0
Ilsi Tu'ivai	Tonga	36	6	3	0
Catalin Sasu	Romania	35	7	0	0
Filipo Saena	W. Samoa	33	1	14	0
Ian Strange	Hong Kong	31	3	8	0
Morea Kauna	PNG	30	6	0	0
Sila Vaifale	W. Samoa	30	6	0	0
Paul Tiensten	PNG	30	2	10	0
Gustavo Jorge	Argentina	25	5	0	0
David Campese	Australia	25	5	0	0
Craig Pain	Hong Kong	25	5	0	0
Lolagi Koko	W. Samoa	25	5	0	0
Andre Joubert	South Africa	25	3	5	0
Samisoni Lolo	Tonga	20	4	0	0
Eric Rush	New Zealand	19	3	2	0
Michelangelo Amore	Italy	18	2	4	0
Massimo Bonomi	Italy	17	1	6	0
Glen Osborne	New Zealand	15	3	0	0
Gerhard Mans	Namibia	15	3	0	0
Mark Appleson	Scotland	15	3	0	0
Horacio Herrera	Argentina	15	3	0	0
Jason Little	Australia	15	3	0	0
Tim Horan	Australia	15	3	0	0
Sakeasi Vonolagi	Fiji	15	3	0	0
Filimone Scru	Fiji	15	3	0	0
Javier Pertile	Italy	15	3	0	0
Hironaga Kato	Japan	15	3	0	0
Sinali Latu	Japan	15	3	0	0
Cho Sung-Chui	Korea	15	3	0	0
Johan Barnard	Namibia	15	3	0	0
Stuart Forster	New Zealand	15	3	0	0
J. van der Westhuizen	South Africa	15	3	0	0
Rupert Moon	Wales	15	3	0	0
Scott Gibbs	Wales	15	3	0	0
Alefaio Vaisuai	W. Samoa	15	3	0	0
Elisi Vunipola	Tonga	15	1	5	0
Gonzalo Garcia	Argentina	14	2	2	0
Hugh Reece-Edwards	South Africa	14	0	7	0
Chris Tynan	Canada	13	1	4	0
Anatelea Aiolupo	W. Samoa	13	0	5	1
Serban Guranescu	Romania	12	2	1	0
Mike Telkamp	Am. Eagles	12	0	6	0
Mark Ellis	New Zealand	12	0	6	0
Mae Chyan-Shuenn	Taiwan	11	1	3	0
Andy Dujakovich	Am. Eagles	10	2	0	0
Will Brewington	Am. Eagles	10	2	0	0
Grant Lodge	Australia	10	2	0	0
Mesake Rasari	Fiji	10	2	0	0

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- 64 TEAMS!!
- Club, 1st and 2nd Divisions
- Clydesdales (over 200 lbs.)
- Entry Fee:
 - \$150 (before 5/1)
 - \$175 (after)

Saturday, June 26, 1993

All-World Rugby Poker Championship: Friday, June 25

Craig Platt
702-597-7170(w)
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THE LAS VEGAS RFC

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