

The Newsletter of the Philippine Rugby Football Union (PRFU)

SWEET VICTORY!

Philippine Volcanoes Defeat India to take home the Asian5Nations Division 2 Championship



The Philippine Volcanoes took the Division 2 ARFU title at their first attempt in emphatic fashion in Delhi today with a 34-12 victory over the hosts, India.

Although the final victory was a three try to two triumph, the gallant Indian team were restricted to scoring at the beginning of the game and at the end of the game, but for the intervening periods the Philippines dominated both territory and possession.

The beginning of the game was marked by gusts of sand and dust which knocked down some of the hoardings surrounding the brand new rugby pitch at Delhi University. An enthusiastic local crowd cheered on the local team and the initial exchanges were very physical. After an early penalty kicked by Oliver Saunders, the Indian pack took the ball from a lineout in their own 22 and trundled the Philippines pack backwards for an emphatic forwards' try. However, the remainder of the first half involved the Volcanoes applying tremendous pressure on the Indians in all parts of the field and this led to a string of penalties, duly converted by the Philippine No. 10 and just before half time the lead had been extended to 15-7, by virtue of five penalties. In a crucial period of the match Matt Saunders, who had a strong tournament, went in for a five-pointer out wide, improved his position and the resulting conversion allowed the Philippine team to take a 22-7 lead into the half-time break. The first half had been punctuated with low crunching tackles by the fourth-ranked team on their larger opponents, but the game was still up for grabs. *(con't page 2)*

Philippine Ladies Rugby Team Win at the Asian Womens 7s Championships



The Philippine National Ladies Rugby Union Team emphatically won the Asian Rugby Ladies championships in Guangzhou, China by defeating India, Korea, Laos and Malaysia to claim the ladies B Division trophy. The tournament was held at the stadium which will host the Asian Games this November and it was the first time that the Philippines has competed in an Asian Championships in ladies Rugby 7s. The team consisted of Filipino players from Manila, Cebu, Bataan, Australia, USA and Canada and arrived in Guangzhou not knowing how they would fare in their first International Rugby Tournament. To everyone's amazement the Philippines quickly stamped their authority on the tournament and the team started to turn heads when they defeated India by 17 - 0. The Indian team are all in a professional training camp to prepare for the Commonwealth and Asian Games later this year and were the favorites to win the B Division tournament.

The victory over India then paved the way for the Philippines to storm through the tournament beating all teams before them and amassing 110 points and having none scored against them. Team Captains Jackie Finlan and Rosie Rough, both from the Lions Rugby Club in New York led the way and showed the younger less experienced Filipino players how to attack and defend in the International Arena. The Filipino based players rose to the challenge and really followed orders to combine to beat one of the Asian powerhouses in sport and Rugby Union, Korea, by 33 to 0. Trixie Pacis and Bela Silva combined to score two tries and were well supported by the team speedsters Nikki Lira and Aiumi Ono... *(con't page 3)*

Philippine Volcanoes Defeat India... from page 1

As was the case on Wednesday evening the third period of play proved critical to the ultimate outcome of the match. The Indian team raised their game after the main break and running with a strong wind at their backs the Volcanoes were forced to defend stoutly. Eventually the early rhythm of the match returned and strong forward play by the Philippines eventually created time and space for the backs to work their moves and most of the backline were involved when Ken Stern galloped over the try line, almost immediately before the last water-break. Although not converted, that score gave the Philippines a 27-7 advantage with twenty minutes remaining. As with the match on Wednesday evening, the entire bench of the Volcanoes were used and a second try to Stern (converted by Saunders) left the Philippines in a very comfortable position before the Indians scored a consolation try towards the end of the match, again through their bullocking forwards.

Once the hooter sounded the Volcanoes "erupted" and that marked the beginning of a celebration which continued onto the bus and ended (at least in India!) after the brief ceremonies back at the hotel. Michael Letts proudly accepted the shield from rugby legend, Rory Underwood, and thanked our hosts for a wonderful, unique experience for the touring victors. In the match, Chris Hitch and Michael De Guzman were stand-outs in the loose and Oli Saunders' superb kicking calmed the nerves of the handful of Volcanoes' supporters. Huge congratulations to all players and to coaches Expo Mejia and Jarred Hodges, physio, Damian Raper and Team Manager, Matt Cullen. Their calmness and professionalism certainly rubbed off on the players.

Next year Division 1 awaits, but a storm of another sort is approaching the Philippines in the shape of a group of hard-working and dedicated lads who are ready to party, after the completion of a difficult mission faithfully completed!



Philippine National Team visits the Bahay Bata Foundation

Philippine National Rugby Union Team took time out from their busy media and commitments to visit the Bahay Bata Foundation in Pampanaga. After arriving back from India the National Men's Rugby team were swamped by media and press agents who wanted to report as the only Filipino sports team to remain undefeated in Asian Championships in the last three years.



Amongst all the media hype and the thrills of a great victory six of their National Team players gave up their time to travel two hours to Pampanaga to conduct a training session with the No. 1 Juniors Club in the Philippines, Bahay Bata Foundation. Raf and Rupert Zappia, Kenny Stern, Cleo Gomez, Jaime Urquijo and Team Co-Captain Chris Hitch were delighted to take the opportunity to show their skills and teach orphaned juniors who all aspire to represent the Philippines at Rugby Union. Also on hand were PRFU Sponsors, John Bradley and Ross Bendix of Overgaard and Gareth Domb from HMR.

The Bahay Bata juniors club has 35 players aged between 8 and 16 years old and play in the PRFU Active Fun juniors league. The National Team players were amazed at the skills and positive attitude of the Bahay Bata juniors and when the juniors started to play the National Team players had to concentrate to stop the juniors from scoring against them.

Philippine Ladies Team Win... from page 1

who also scored tries to seal the quarter final victory.

The Semi final was played against Laos, who currently hold the Bronze medal in Ladies 7s from the SEA Games. This did not deter the focused Filipino team who grew in confidence with each win. It was Manila Santos and Alana Padilla who displayed aggressive defensive techniques to quash the Laos attack and this allowed Rosie Rough to storm away and score three unanswered tries. The Philippines realized that they had made the final without conceding a single try in the round games. Coach Matt Cullen had stated earlier "Defence wins championships".

The team then focused on meeting a formidable team from Malaysia in the Final of the Asian Ladies Div. B Tournament. In front of a large crowd in the 40 000 seat stadium the Philippines ran out to play their first final in their very first appearance at an International event. It was the elusive running from Aumi Ono who ran wide to score the opening try of the game and the Philippines never looked back. Team Captains Jackie Finlan and Rosie Rough both scored tries and Rosie Rough was able to convert three tries to win the game by 20 to 0. The Philippines National Ladies 7's team had accumulated 110 points and did not have a single point scored against them, a feat that has not been matched by any other team. Even the Philippine National Men's teams cannot claim to have played at an International 7s tournament and not conceded points. The victory places the Philippines National Ladies 7's team in the top 8 countries in Asia and they have proven that the Philippines can play Ladies Rugby by defeating four established teams who have been playing ladies rugby for the past five years.

The PRFU wishes to thank the following companies that helped send the Ladies 7s Team to China



Cuenca Field -- Ready for Rugby!!!

Over the last four months the Ayala Alabang Village has undertaken to redevelop Cuenca field which is situated near St. James Church in the AAV. The positive outcome from this project is that the new Sports Committee have opened their arms to the Alabang Eagles Rugby Club and have invited the Eagles to run both juniors and senior programs and construct rugby posts to erect at the field as a semi permanent basis.

Before the redevelopment, it was almost impossible to host tackle rugby games at Cuenca because the field surface was too barren and injuries would have occurred and the field had permanent soccer goalposts, thus restricting the size of the pitch for tackle rugby.

The AAVA have done an excellent job in reconditioning the Cuenca Field and spent two months hand laying new grass which is now being manicured for the pitch reopening in August. The Alabang Eagles have swooped on the opportunity to make the Cuenca pitch their home field and generously donated new rugby goalposts and sprinkler systems and will reopen the Cuenca Field with the Alabang 7's on Saturday, September 18, 2010.

It has been a long ambition of the Alabang Eagles and especially Club President, Mr. Randell Carman, to have a home venue for the Alabang Eagles and now Cuenca field will certainly provide a world class pitch and training venue for the Eagles to develop and promote the sport of Rugby Union in the Alabang Area.

ALABANG EAGLES RUGBY CLUB

ALABANG 7S

Saturday, September 18, 2010
CUENCA FIELD
AYALA ALABANG VILLAGE

9:00am - 12:00nn
LADIES' & JUNIORS
TOUCH FOOTBALL

1:00pm - 5:00pm
MEN'S 7s
RUGBY UNION

ALABANG EAGLES

PRFU CSR Programs proving successful with National U20s Team

In 2006 the Philippine Rugby Union embarked on CSR training programs at the Bahay Bata and Tuloy foundations to develop the sport of Rugby Union and give opportunities to those less fortunate than others with the chance of representing their country. This year the fruits of these development programs have come to life with two boys from the programs being selected in the Philippine National u20s team.

Lito Talosig developed his skills at the Bahay Bata Foundation in Pampanga and this program has been supported by the Pot Bellied Pigs who hold the annual Fat Boy 10s at Clark Airbase and have raised over \$150 000 usd over the last five years to help support the Foundation. Specifically OVERGAARD and the Nomads Rugby Club have also provided support to develop the Juniors Rugby Union club and have combined to donate, coaching, transport, kit, insurance and food to allow the Bahay Bata Rugby Club to become the number one juniors club in the Philippines. The club currently have u8, u10, u12, u14 and u16 year old teams and are well supported by the Duyan Ni Maria orphanage who also send younger players to train and play in the monthly PRFU junior tournaments.

Lito is one of the original foundation boys to enter the school and as is currently studying to become a mechanic, he started Touch Rugby and has now taken up full contact Rugby Union and loves the new challenge, he recently trialled and was selected in the 2010 Philippine National u20s team and he will be the first of many Bahay Bata boys to represent their country at Rugby Union.



Joselito Talosig from Bahay Bata foundation with Fat Boy 10s Committee members Chris Simpson and Matt Stockdale



Jovic Papon with PRFU and Tuloy Foundation Coach Arlo Carlito

Jovic Papon is a recent graduate from the Tuloy Foundation in Alabang and is currently working as a PRFU development officer, Jovic displayed natural talent as a 15 year old at Tuloy and was Captain of the Tuloy Juniors Rugby Club, he has now taken up contact Rugby Union and was announced the 2010 PRFU B Division MVP for the 15s league. Jovic learnt his skills at the Tuloy Foundation with the Alabang Eagles Rugby Club supporting the youth development program at this foundation. Most of the Tuloy graduates have moved straight into the Alabang Eagles teams and Club president and HMR Company owner Randell Carman not only supplies opportunities for the Tuloy graduates to play sport but also provides employment in the HMR Group giving these young men an opportunity to better themselves in life.



2009 Philippine National Under 20 Team Asian U20s Division 2 Champions

The 2009 Philippine National u20s team won the Division 2 Asian u20s championships by defeating Iran, Laos and Pakistan, this years team will also have to beat Kazakhstan and India to retain their title. The tournament will be held in Vientiane Laos from August 14 - 22 and the Philippines will have to play three full 15s games to win the title. Coach Matt Cullen is confident that the 2010 National u20s team can win again at the Asian Championships and is happy that most of the 2009 championship team will return to play in this years tournament.

PRFU ARE PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 2 - 4:** U20's Team Training | *Nomads, BSM, Philsports*
- 7:** National U20s Team vs. Philippine Devt Team | *Cuenca Field*
- 5 - 3:** National u20's Daily Training (3pm - 5pm)
- 14 - 22:** ARFU U20's Div 2 Tournament | *Laos*
- 13:** PRFU Monthly Board Meeting
- 21:** PRFU 10's | *Cuenca Field*
- 28:** Level 1 IRB Coaching Certificate Course



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- 1-3:** Philippine National 7s team training camp | *Philsports*
- 4:** Fat Boy Tens Tournament | *Clark Airbase*
- 4-5:** Shanghai 7's Rugby tournament, | *Shanghai*
- 8:** PRFU Monthly Board Meeting
- 18:** Active Fun Juniors | *Cuenca Field*
Alabang Eagles 7s Tournament | *Cuenca Field*
PRFU 7s League Round 1 | *Cuenca Field*

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The Philippine National Ladies Team: Truly, Grace under Pressure

Girls are said to be made up of “sweet and spice and everything nice”. Now how does that connect to ladies who play a contact sport known to be very physical and rough? The Philippine National Ladies Team is all this and more.

Rugby has been steadily gaining popularity in the Philippines sports arena. The recent successes of the Philippine National Men’s and Under 20’s teams have put the Philippines in the Asian map in the sport of Rugby Union. This July 2010, Philippine Rugby Football Union (PRFU) is looking forward to sending its’ first ever Philippine Ladies’ 7s Team to Guangzhou, China to compete in the Asian Rugby Football Union Womens 7 Championships.

Twelve female athletes of Filipino heritage have been carefully selected to represent the country in the said event. Board members of PRFU, including National Coach Matt Cullen, picked players locally and abroad who have the natural ability and experience to play the sport. The tournament will take place from 24th to 25th July.



The 15 member squad: 12 players namely: Dyesebel Diaz, Jackie Finlan, Nikki Lira, Aiumi Ono, Trixie Pacis, Margarita Pacis, Alana Padilla, Rosette Rough, Beekay delos Santos, Manila Santos, Isabela Silva and Syndee Storey and 3 officials – Team Manager Joy Pineda, Coach Matt Cullen, and Physiotherapist Olive Rallanka will head to Guangzhou on July 21 to attend meetings and practice sessions on the tournament venue. There are 14 teams expected to participate in the tournament.

This is not only the first ever Philippine National Ladies’ Team formed. This is also the first time they will be competing in an International Tournament. Make no mistake, these ladies are all woman but they train hard and play hard, making them one tough team, ready to rough it up make the country proud!

PROFILE: EXPO MEJIA National Coach, A5N Mens Team

Full Name: *Expedito Jose Mejia*

Nickname: *Expo*

Age: *40*

Date of birth: *July 4, 1970*

Current City: *Sydney, Australia*

Heritage: *Filipino*

Interesting Skill: *State Junior Chess Champion*

Teams Coached:

New York Lions, Eastwood Rugby Club, Gordon Rugby Club, Penrith Rugby Club, Coach Education Coordinator (NSW Waratahs and Australian Rugby Union), Australian Barbarians

Rugby Hero: *Matt Burke The Legend*

Why Rugby:

It teaches you life lessons on discipline, commitment and friendship... you can smash someone on the field yet enjoy a beer with them after the game... that is unique to rugby!!

View on Philippine Rugby:

Filipinos are naturally good athletes... within a few years Philippine Rugby will be a powerhouse in the Asian region



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