



# Philippines RUGBY & MAUL

The Monthly Newsletter of the Philippine Rugby Football Union (PRFU)

APRIL 2009 VOL 2. NO.4  
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Foreign and Local Dignitaries In-  
spect A5N venues ..... 1-2

Cebu Dragons Host Cebu10's  
Championships..... 3

A number of Firsts.....4

Philippine Barbarians Storm  
Home .....5-6

PRFU Featured Player .....7

PRFU Upcoming Events.....7

PRFU Board and Staff.....8

PRFU Sponsors ..... 8

## Foreign and Local Dignitaries Inspect Asian Five Nations Venues

This April 22, 2009, some foreign and local dignitaries visited the selected game and accommodations venues for the Asian Five Nation Division 3 Tournament which is set to take place this July 1-5 2009.

Along with PRFU National Coach Matthew Cullen, they first went to check the newly built University of Makati Stadium. Dean Ramos and the Vice President of the University, welcomed the Iranian Consul Nasser Mohamadee and Philippine Sports Commissioner Eric Loretizo, and showed them the different facilities of the stadium. The stadium has a seating capacity of up to about 4000 people and is equipped with all the necessary facilities for an International Event like the Asian Five Nations Tournament. Everyone was impressed by the well- built stadium and congratulated the engineer for a job well done.



### PHILIPPINE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

3/F Room 305 Building B  
PhilSports Complex, Meralco Ave.  
Pasig City, Philippines  
Tel. Nos. (632) 634 5889 / 7064668  
Email: admin\_manager@prfu.com  
Website: www.prfu.com



Next stop was the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila which was the official residence for the tournament participants. Here they were welcomed by Ms. Ruby Quiroz and Pearl Maclang, who then gave the guests a tour of the hotel rooms, gym, and swimming pool and function rooms. At the end of all the inspections, the visitors were all treated to a delectable buffet lunch.

Once again the PRFU would like to thank the University of Makati and The Holiday Inn Galleria Manila for being gracious hosts to all the guests. We are looking forward to hosting the coming Asian Five Nation International Rugby Tournament right here in the Philippines.



## Cebu Dragons Host the Cebu 10's 2009 Championships

The Cebu Dragons Rugby Club held their 2nd Cebu 10's Rugby Tournament in Cebu at the newly established Aboitiz Field last April 25, 2009. The event began at the Tap Room Pub on the Friday evening where all teams met and enjoyed a social evening. The eight Men's Teams who were competing for the prized trophies included two International Teams (Hong Kong University and the Tyloon Pigs) two local teams (Cebu Dragons and Low Flying Dragons) and four teams from Manila (Eagles, Nomads, Barbarians and Carabaos). In the Pool A Division it was a hard fought battle between the Nomads and Tyloon to decide the first and second placing and it was the Nomads that went through this division undefeated winning three games without conceding a try.

In Pool B Division it was the Eagles who also won their three pool games convincingly beating the Hong Kong University and Carabaos but only narrowly defeating a tough Low Flying Dragons outfit 7-0. The games were very physical and played in good spirit with no players receiving a card throughout the tournament. The finals were extended to 16 minutes which meant all teams had to dig deep and work through the pain of the round games. There were four finals, the first final was the Dragon Tail which pitted the Nomads Carabaos up against the Barbarians, and the Carabaos won this easily 38-0. The next trophy was labeled the claw and this saw a local derby between the two Cebu Teams. In one of the best games

of the day, it was the low flying Dragons who stormed home in the second half to win 24-10. The third final saw another local derby with the younger Hong Kong University Team taking on the older battle hardened Tyloon legends. After playing at 100% in the semi-final the Tyloon team finally ran out of steam and the University students ran home with the victory 17-7.

The Cup Final had the Nomads v Eagles whom had previously met in the Alabang Eagles Final and the PRFU 10's League final. This time it was the Nomads who showed experience does count in finals rugby and they pressured the younger Eagles into making mistakes in their own territory. This continued and the Nomads won the Cup Final by 17-5.



## A Number of Firsts

Cebu Dragons welcomed the touring Olney RFC from Buckinghamshire UK to Aboitiz Field on Wednesday evening for their first floodlit, and only their third, 15 a side game.

The match started in very humid conditions; however the pitch had benefited from two days of rain and was not the bone shaking rock hard surface that it was for the Cebu 10s Tournament the previous weekend.

The mainly young Filipino Dragons ably assisted by a smattering of aged Brits, French, South Africans and Kiwis started strongly against the Level 5 side from England, containing seven of their normal 1st XV in their starting line-up.

The home side shocked the tourists by scoring first through quick ball to the centres and Hola Iketau broke two tackles to sprint from halfway to score under the posts, duly converted by scrum-half Jerry Branzuela.

From the restart Olney started to use their huge forwards and despite the brave tackling from Cebu, notably skipper Noel Flowers, club founder member Damian Allison, flanker Don Bartolata, and Philippines national Under 20s rep. Lester Loma, Olney's pick and go tactics from the ruck and domination of the set-piece began to tell on the home side.

When in possession Cebu looked very dangerous throughout the game, unfortunately they gave away too many turnovers through lack of support, and Olney through their support play, bigger forwards and well-drilled team-work began to keep the scoreboard ticking over, eventually running out 51-7 winners on the night.

Urged on by a crowd of several hundred, Cebu never stopped trying, narrowly failing to score on two or three occasions, especially on one occasion when pulled back by the over fussy referee for a knock-on.

Despite the score it was another great learning curve for the Dragons and for the future of Philippines rugby in general.

After a very enjoyable match the evening carried on to the Out of Africa restaurant, where following presentations the local diners were entertained by a few rousing traditional rugby songs (clean ones, I may add).



***Olney RFC Team from England***

Another first was that the evening celebrated Cebu stalwart prop Dave Maynard's testimonial match.

Cebu Dragons wish Olney well for their game in Manila on Saturday and would like to thank Olney, the first UK tourists to Cebu, for their visit and especially for the coaching clinic they put on for the kids of Operation Restore Hope (Cebu Dragons charity), The Pink Dragons and the Junior Dragons.



***L-R: Olney RFC Captain Jack Sutton with team mate Richard James***

## Philippine Barbarians Storm Home in Arm Wrestle Against Olney R.F.C.

It had been quite a while since the Philippines had put together a Barbarian Team. With the English touring team, Olney Rugby Club, visiting the Philippines during a long weekend break, the Philippines decided not to battle each other, but to combine forces and take on the British Division 3 Champions as the Philippine Barbarians.

Olney had spent the week in Cebu and played the Dragons in a mid-week game. The Dragons had just come off a huge weekend after hosting the successful Cebu 10's and backed up to take on a seasoned tour squad. The Dragons shot out of the gates and scored first and this obviously fired up the Englishmen into a forward orientated game where they dominated possession to run out winners 31-7.



***Olney RFC with the Philippine Baa Baa's***

The tourists then flew to beautiful Manila to take on the Philippine Barbarian Team at Nomads. Olney had 35 players on tour and to the Barbarians credit; they combined to have 25 players dressed and ready to play.

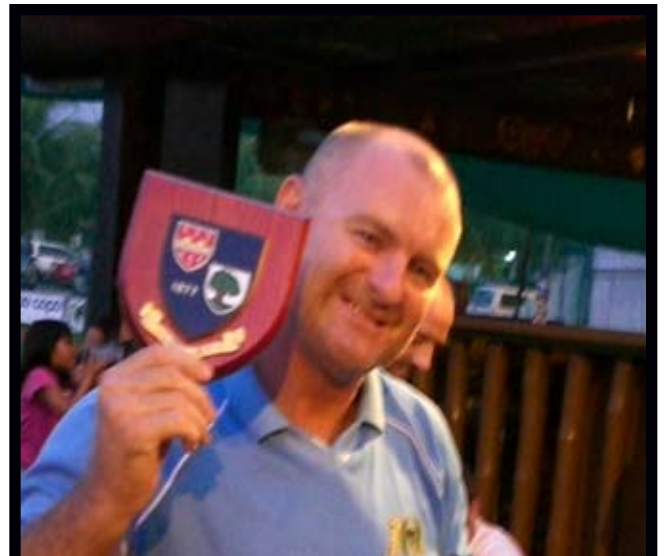
The first 20 minute quarter was dominated by Olney and ran in three unopposed tries to take a convincing lead of 15-0. The Barbarians then made a couple of tactical replacements and decided that instead of trying to beat the larger Olney forward pack up the middle, they would throw the ball wide and attack in the flanks. In true Barbarian style, the running rugby style proved effective and it was Hooky from the Alabang Eagles who broke through three tackles to step and sprint for a try under the posts.

“The Arm Wrestle had begun!! ”

The Olney Rugby Club stuck to their basic forward oriented game plan and the Barbarians started to bring the larger opponents to the ground and the Olney pack started to show weary legs of a team that been on tour for a week. The Barbarians took full advantage of this and center “Bobby” from Nomads scored two individual tries at inside center.

The Barbarian Captain Steve Mommaerts was inspiration in rallying the Baas Baas to fight back to 30-28 to start the last quarter. It was the Baas Baas who scored with 5 minutes left on the clock to take the score to 30-28. Olney smoothed possession and kept the ball in the forwards and this allowed them to capture victory by the narrowest margins.

It was a game of two halves with Olney scoring all their 30 points in the first half and the Barbarians playing running rugby to almost snatch an upset victory against a bigger side who have just played a whole season together.



## PRFU FEATURED PLAYER:

**Name:** Austin Emil Dacanay  
**Nickname:** N/A  
**Age:** 32  
**Date of Birth:** Sept. 6, 1976  
**Current City:** Tampa, FL  
**Heritage:** 100% Pinoy, or Fullblood...tap, tap, pause, tapos, heart.  
**Team:** Philippine National Team via Tampa Krewe RFC  
**Position Played:** Loosehead Prop  
**Rugby Hero:** Tana Umaga....and Jake Letts. xoxoxo  
**Interesting Skill:** I once drank a lava lamp. The whole thing.



**Why RUGBY? :** Cause I was not tall enough to play basketball, like most pinoyos, not fast enough to run track, like the itims, and not co-ordinated enough to play baseball or cricket like the putes, so rugby was all that was left. And oh yeah, and you can punch someone in the face and not go to jail. :)

According to **Austin** .. "Rugby was like a very bad cruise...when you first get on the boat, the food is laid out perfectly, the pool looks great, and the pinoy hosts are one in a million. But once the ship gets out to sea, and starts rocking back and forth and hits the 100 foot swells, all you wanna do is barf. Rugby is a great sport, and has been good to me in my career at the national, international and professional levels" but when he thinks about all of the games he's played, all the injuries he has accrued, all the partying he has done, all of the characters he has met, and all the money he has spent, it makes him wanna barf...but when Austin thinks about being one of the Sons of Lapu Lapu, it makes him proud.

## PRFU UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 9, 23 and June 6 - PRFU 15's League

July 1 & 4 - A5N Division 3 Tournament



## PRFU BOARD AND STAFF: PRFU BOARD FEATURE:

**President:** Admiral Eduardo Santos  
**Secretary General:** Alvin San Diego  
**Treasurer:** Peter Lawrence  
**Board of Trustees:**  
Damien Allison  
Romain Barberis  
John Cuthbertson  
Rick Hartley  
Leslie Stokes

**PRFU Consultant/ National Coach:**  
Matt Cullen

**PRFU Development Officers:**  
Ahlo Abono  
Juan Engelbrecht

**PRFU Administrative Assistant:**  
Camille Rachelle Cuna

**Name:** Alvin San Diego  
**Birth date:** March 14, 1974  
**Board Position:** Secretary General

**Why rugby?**  
The competition and camaraderie



Back in his school years, **Alvin** played Rugby in Marist Brothers Ashgrove in Brisbane, Australia. during this time, Alvin played alongside John Eales and states that he was easy to bring down. Here in the Philippines, Alvin played for the Alabang Eagles as an outside center wing and also made his test debut in the Philippine National Team 2006. Alvin was only in the field for one minute until he was knocked unconscious which led to end of his International Career. His involvement and dedication to the sport stood out and pretty soon Alvin was the treasurer for the PRFU BOARD and in the last two years he has been acting as the Secretary General. At present, other than his commitment to developing the sport of rugby here in the Philippines, Alvin is AVP/ Branch Manager for Citisavings Alabang Branch. He is happily married and is father to three fine-looking sons and a lovely little daughter.

PRFU is proudly sponsored by:

