



# Philippines RUGBY & MAUL

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

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## PNPA Rookies Score an Upset at UP Touch Tournament

By: Juan Engelbrecht

On Saturday, January 24th 2009, The UP Girls Touch team hosted their annual Touch Tournament at home base with great success. Teams from far and wide across the Philippines showed up to take part in this annual tournament.



One of the teams participating was the PNPA squad from Cavite city. With two weeks of training behind them, they decided that it was time to leave the base and test their skills on the field. In the beginning, everybody took the rookies lightly. But they were all mistaken.

From the start the PNPA Boys came on strong against the UP Boy's Team. The UP team did everything they could but were unable to break the solid PNPA defense. At the final minutes, the PNPA boys' fitness came through and they scored twice against the favorable team, winning the match.

Straight after their first match, PNPA boys faced their archrivals, MAAP. The boys, drained yet fired up, took on their enemy with full force. It looked like neither team would score and the game would end in a draw, when a miracle try came out of nowhere, for PNPA, on the sixth down, with the final whistle blown ending the game.

After a breather, PNPA played their final game against the tough Manila Hapons beating them 3-2. After much deliberation, Rey Gigataras concluded that the PNPA boys were the victors. An unbelievable accomplishment reached by a team with only minor experience of the game. They each walked away with gold medallions and immense pride in acknowledgment of their achievement.

The PNPA Girls on the other hand, did not fare as well as their male counterparts. Playing in the shield division, they competed against Faith Junior Varsity, ISM Junior Varsity and the Manila Hapons Girls teams. The field was muddy and PNPA girls had to struggle against poor conditions and more experienced teams.

Although they did not place where they expected, they gained valuable experience and walked away with a new understanding of the game.

On behalf of the PRFU and PNPA we wish to say thank you to the organizers of the event without which the tournament would not have been possible. Finally, I leave a challenge for more rugby teams to join next year and experience the youthful spirit with us.

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# Nomads Bullettes in the UP Touch Rugby Invitational Games

By: Clair Barberis

It's a good feeling to see a sister club grow in just three years. The UP Touch Rugby Club has advanced by leaps and bounds from an afternoon orientation to a full on tournament with Manila's most competitive teams as well as developing teams.

Our first game against UP Varsity was a bit of a rude awakening with only 10 players and cold legs. Needless to say, we lost 0-2 but gained much aggression from there.

The following game was versus Faith Academy and expectedly, we played much better – having warmed up yet still with a mere 10 players. By this time, it was obvious we were going to work around this number and our lungs throughout the tourney. With some great support plays by Clair, Cesca and Emma, respectively – Ara, on the wing, scored her first try ever, soon to be followed by Emma's beautiful and unexpected dive on the try line, and Clair's try scooping up a considerable amount of mud off the field. Capping off the game at 3-1.

The third game was versus Brent and by this time, we were in formidable sync – good on defense, better in attack. Two tries scored by Lyn and Clair with the assistance of Lala and Anne. There could have been more tries if Cesca had better shoes.

A questionable call from the ref negating a dump and split try by Clair and Cesca versus the undefeated touch team in Manila – ISM. But the effort was there – especially by Lala, MVP for the day, who made a beeline for Isabel, ISM's cappie, as she broke away and successfully prevented a try. Formidable sync was replaced by undeniable fatigue and defense broke down against the drives of ISM. The final score is forgettable as we're still licking our wounds.

At the end of the day – it's always about good fun and plays – it's the rugby way.



## 3rd U.P. Touch Rugby Invitational Games

By: Roge Dublin

It was an all-day touch affair as athletes from different competing teams around the country got together for the 3rd University of the Philippines Touch Rugby Invitational Games held at the UP Sunken Garden last January 24.

The ladies from International School of Manila showed might, winning as many games to grab the gold medal in both the Ladies and Junior Varsity Divisions. Tournament host UP bagged the silver medal winning over a tight margin against the Nomads Team who took home the bronze.

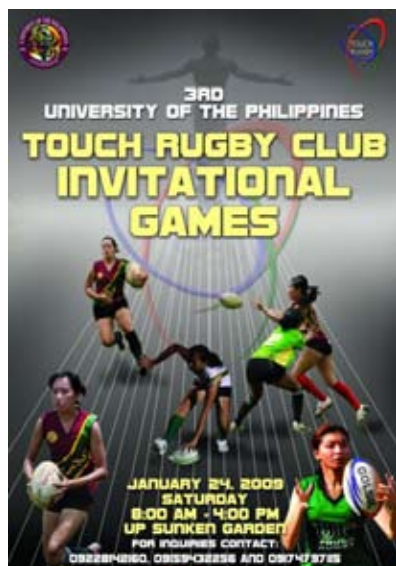
In the Junior Varsity Division, Brent International School JVs settled as runners-up. Also seeing action in this division were Faith Academy JV, Manila Hapons, Maritime Academy of Asia Pacific and Philippine National Police Academy.

Utilizing quickness to their advantage, the boys from PNPA overran the other teams to rule in the Men's Division. MAAP came in second place while the Manila Hapons settled for third. UP and the Alabang Ibons came in fourth and fifth places, respectively.

Each winning team also took home a box of I-on Energy Drink while the Most Valuable Player of each division bagged gift certificates from Gold's Gym worth P5000 and a pair of flip-flops courtesy of Havaianas.

Helping out as referees in the tourney were the respective coaches of Brent, ISM, and Faith and UP.

Culminating the event was an inter-class competition between students taking up Touch Rugby as Physical Education classes in UP under the supervision of UP's Coach Rey Gigataras.



# 3rd U.P. Touch Rugby Invitational Games



## National Coach and Number Two visit Queensland Reds Training Camp



Philippines National Men's Team Coach, Matt Cullen and current Philippines National Player, Mike Duhig were recently invited to attend a Queensland Reds Rugby Union Training Camp to observe and discuss current training techniques and methods that are being conducted at the elite Super 14's level.

The Queensland Reds had just returned from their pre-season tour of Europe and entered a week long intensive training camp at a coastal resort at Kingscliffe, Australia. It was with pleasure that the Philippines Rugby Football Union were invited to attend the training camp and Matt and Mike set out from Brisbane to join the camp at the Northern N.S.W. beach resort.

Whilst there The Philippines Team National Coach was able to meet with the Queensland Reds coaching Staff and discuss current training methods and techniques being introduced at the state level.

Meanwhile, as a Nudgee College Graduate and current Brothers Rugby Union Club player, Mike Duhig already knew a number of the Queensland players and trainers. The national player was able to catch up with some old rugby mates and meet the current Queensland squad. Both Philippines representatives were able to hold discussions and then attend and watch a Reds Training session.

In addition, National Coach Matt Cullen also caught up with a former undergraduate from his days of coaching Rugby Union at St. John's College in Melbourne, where a player by the name of Digby Ione was discovered as a 14 year old, and was selected in the Australian U/15 team that year.

To top off a productive day, the Queensland Reds coaching staff showed their interest in supporting and developing the sport of Rugby Union in the Philippines by donating signed Wallaby's and Queensland Reds jerseys that will be auctioned at this year's Manila 10's Lunch.

Both Mike and Matt certainly relished the opportunity of attending the Reds Training Camp and came away with positive ideas for running a successful and professional National Team Training Camp before this year's Asian Five Nations Tournament in Manila from June 30th – July 5th.





## Philippine Department of Tourism Supports Asian Five Nations International Rugby Tournament

The PRFU recently visited Cynthia Carrion who is now, Undersecretary for Sports and Wellness with the Philippine Department of Tourism. Cynthia has supported the growing sport of Rugby Football Union in the Philippines and was delighted to hear the Philippines won the rights to host the Asian Five Nations International Tournament here in Manila from June 30th- July 5th.

The Undersecretary was also extremely excited to learn that the International Event will be held at the newly built Sports Stadium at the University of Makati which can hold up to 4,000 supporters. Cynthia Carrion is a proud advocate of promoting International Events here in the Philippines .

The Undersecretary explained that the Philippine Department of Tourism would support the A5N tournament and could supply support to the hosts by providing Airport Assistance, Guided Tours and several other means of assistance in order to ensure the success of the International Event.

National Coach Matt Cullen was extremely grateful that the Philippine Department of Tourism and in particular, Undersecretary Cynthia Carrion had come on board to support this International event and explained that " All International Sporting Events deserve top billing and it is fantastic to see Rugby Union finally receiving support from high level Philippine Government Departments."

The PRFU has also invited Undersecretary Carrion to be a VIP Guest at both game days and the Tournament Banquet and Awards Evening which will be held at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. To conclude, The PRFU would like to thank the Department of Tourism for their continued support for the development of Rugby Union here in the Philippines.



### Eagles Inspect Eton Development to Build New Rugby Field

Alabang Eagles Club President Mr. Randell Carman and PRFU Consultant Matt Cullen travelled south of Alabang to meet with the Eton Development Project Team in Greenfields City, Laguna.

Eton Development have recently started a new housing development project that is located at the Greenfield exit on the South Super Highway with the first stage due to be opened later this 2009. The Alabang Eagles Rugby Club have been searching for a new location to either build or lease a Rugby football field and the Eton Development project team invited the Eagles to take a look at property located within the housing project with the view of building a sports field.

Randell and Matt met with the Project Engineer and he explained that his development team has the equipment and experience to construct a field approximately 140 m x 80 m and that a site for a field had already been highlighted on the project plans. Randell and Matt inspected the field site and discussed how a rugby field could be constructed in a professional manner, focusing on drainage accessibility, club house and expansion possibilities.

The engineer explained that he had already constructed fields in previous projects. Both Randell and Matt were impressed with the Eton Development Concept and it was agreed that a proposal would be submitted to Eton Requesting the Development.



## COMING EVENTS:

**February 7, 2009**

Nomads Juniors Academy Kick-Off  
@ NOMADS

**February 14, 2009**

Round 1 of the PRFU 10's  
@ NOMADS

**February 28, 2009**

Eagles 10's and Round 2 of PRFU 10's  
@ UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI

**March 7, 2009**

Final Round of PRFU 10's / ARFU Conference  
@ NOMADS / DUBAI

**March 14, 2009**

The Manila Touch Rugby Tournament  
@ NOMADS

**March 20, 2009**

The Manila 10's Rugby Lunch  
@ THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL

**March 21-22, 2009**

The Manila 10's Rugby Tournament  
@ NOMADS

## PRFU FEATURED PLAYER

**Name:** Michael Joseph Duhig

**Nickname:** Mikey, Deuce

**Age:** 23

**Date of Birth:** 24/05/1985

**Current City:** Brisbane, Australia

**Heritage:** Filipino-Australian

**Team:** Brothers Old Boys Rugby Club /  
Marist St Joseph's Sports Club (Samoa)/ Philippine National Team

**Position Played:** Hooker, Scrum-Half

**Rugby Hero:** Kevin Mealamu, Totai Kefu

**Why RUGBY?** Perfect combination,  
the full frontal contact nature from my Australian side  
and the creative flare from my Filipino side.

**Interesting Skill:** The ability to read people's minds.

Think of a color

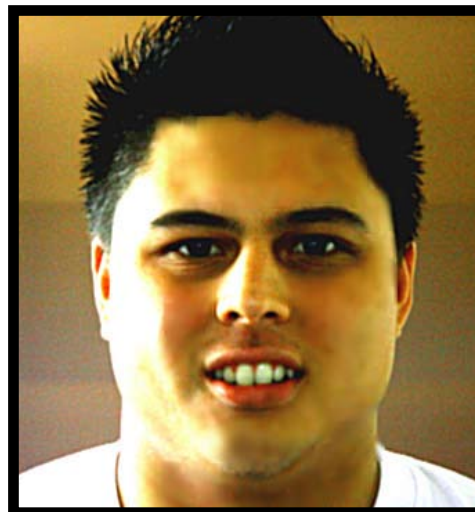
-Blue

Think of a vegetable

-Carrot

Think of a number between 1 and 10

-7



**Michael** was introduced to the game of rugby at the age of 8 by his father who had played the game at a younger age. From then, he continued playing until the age of 13 where he changed from club rugby to school rugby at St Joseph's Nudgee College, a renowned rugby nursery in Australia. During this time, Mike attended rugby camps with Current Wallabies No. 8 Richard Brown and Former blind-side flanker Rocky Elsom. After completing school in 2002, he was a part of the Brothers Rugby Club U17 development program. At age 18, he captained the U19 reserve grade Brothers rugby side and made appearances in their Premier grade team. In 2004, he played in the Premier Colts team that would go on to win the Premiership, playing with the likes of Western Force Utility Scott Daruda.

In the off-season he plays for the Marist St Joseph's Sports Club which is a team comprised of Samoan, Fijian, Papuan New Guinea, Australian and now Filipino players who play in a Samoa / Togan rugby competition. From 2005 onwards he has devoted more time to his studies at the University of Queensland whilst still playing recreational rugby for the Brothers club as well as Representing the Philippines at test level since 2007.

The PRFU is proudly sponsored by:

