

# RUCK and MAUL

Jan-Feb 2011 · Vol 4. No.1

IN THIS ISSUE IN THIS ISSUE IN THIS ISSUE IN THIS ISSUE IN THIS ISSUE



Page 1  
PRFU Welcomes 2011  
Sponsors

Page 2-3  
IRB Educators' Superweek

Page 3  
Sons of Lapu-Lapu Top  
Group in Kiama 7s

Page 4-5  
Philippines Devt. Team  
Bow to Sabah

Page 6  
CBRE Juniors Starts with  
300 Children in 2011

Page 7  
Philippine Women's 7s  
Team Headed to HK

Page 8  
Upcoming Events

Page 9  
PRFU Sponsors & Board

Page 10  
JML Philippines

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## PRFU WELCOMES 2011 SPONSORS



The PRFU are proud to welcome JML Philippines as its Platinum Sponsor for 2011. In 2010, JML graciously sponsored the Philippine Women's Team as they successfully debuted in Guangzhou, China. Impressed by the performance of the PRFU's Men's, Women's and Juniors teams, JML Philippines' Managing Director, Steve Payne, stepped up and pledged his company's year-long support for the PRFU.

*JML Phils. MD, Steve Payne, with PRFU Consultant / National Coach Matt Cullen and President, Alvin San Diego*

Meanwhile, Philippine retailer, Bench, signed up as Manufacturer Sponsor for the PRFU. The solid commitment of this household name and giant in the retailing industry clearly indicates the Philippines' slow but steady growing interest in the sport of Rugby Union.

*Bench Advertising Manager, Jojo Liamzon, with PRFU Director Leslie Stokes and Treasurer, Peter Lawrence*

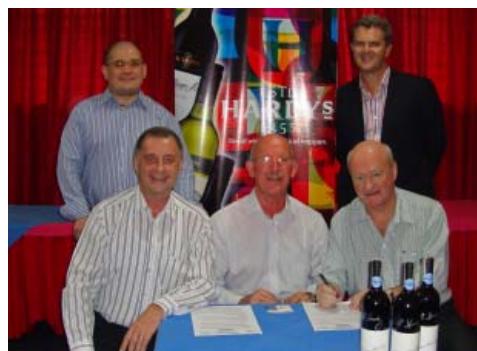


**bench/**

*Globe Telecom President & CEO, Ernest Cu with Alvin San Diego*



*Forth & Tay's team led by James Du Vivier and Bill Hardy, President of Hardy's Wines, at contract signing with Leslie Stokes*



*CBRE Chairman, Rick Santos with Alvin San Diego*

Leighton Contractors Philippines join CBRE as Juniors/Grassroots sponsors, while valued partners that have renewed their support for the PRFU are Globe Telecom, Hardy's (Forth & Tay), Genric, HMR and the Orchid Group.

*Complete list of sponsors is on Page 9*

## IRB EDUCATORS AND TRAINERS SUPERWEEK IN THE PHILIPPINES A HUGE SUCCESS



The PRFU started 2011 with a bang as the host of the first ever IRB Educators and Trainers Superweek in Manila. The IRB run these courses worldwide and it was with great honor that the Philippines was chosen to run this conference in the East Asian region.

Matt Cullen, PRFU National Team Coach and Consultant was over the moon when the Philippines was selected to host the SEA Regional IRB conference and has proven over the last three years that with hard work and dedication you can introduce the sport of Rugby Union in Developing Nations. "Up until now we have focused on our clubs and International teams, last year it was women's Rugby, this year we are very excited to focus on Juniors Rugby and our aim is to select National u14 and u16 teams to tour to Hong Kong. Our Women's 7s team has been invited to the Hong Kong 7s and I am confident our Men's 7s team will also achieve this goal, we have also just taken the National Development team to Sabah to play against the Sabah Rugby Academy and this team is 100% Filipino players who have learnt their rugby skills here in the Philippines"

The caliber of the IRB staff that came to run the courses from Ireland, China, Singapore and Hong Kong was second to none. Among them:

- Mark Harrington – Training and Medical Manager, International Rugby Board
- Jarrad Gallagher – Regional General Manager Asia, International Rugby Board
- Ross Mitchell – Honorary Secretary General, Asian Rugby Football Union
- Gene Tong - IRB Regional Training Coordinator (Asia)

The week was designed to relicense the top-level coaching and match officials who are based throughout East Asia. Participants are currently working as IRB Trainers and Educators to certify regional coaching and match officials with IRB qualifications and under IRB regulations their credentials must be updated every three years. The relicensing courses were then followed by these specialists conducting IRB Level 2 Coaching and Match Officiating courses with 15 Regional and local coaches and 5 match officials.

The PRFU, ARFU and the IRB would like to thank the International School Manila, Mark Pekin and the ISM staff

for providing the facilities, classrooms and fields to help make the course such a wonderful success. All the participants agreed that ISM is world class and commended their High School Boys Rugby Union teams that participated in the Level 2 Coaches Development Sessions.

It is very rare to be able to secure such world class lecturers all in one venue and it is a reflection on the growth and development of the sport of Rugby Union in the Philippines that Manila was chosen to host this International Conference. Jarrad Gallagher and Mark Harrington who were the course supervisors praised the efforts of the PRFU board and staff and were delighted with the professionalism and coordination to run such a top level IRB conference. Jarrad Gallagher stated that "the Philippines is the only country outside of Japan, NOT to have



*"The Philippines is the only country outside of Japan, NOT to have lost an International Men's Rugby Game since the inception of the Asian 5 Nations tournament that has up to 25 countries playing each year since 2008."*

-- Jarrad Gallagher, GM for Asia, IRB



lost an International Men's Rugby Game since the inception of the Asian 5 Nations tournament that has up to 25 countries playing each year since 2008. Who would have thought that Rugby Union would have excelled in the Philippines and now the PRFU has International Teams in the men's 7s, u20s, women's 7s and 15s."

As a result of the IRB Educators Superweek, the Philippines now has 11 new Level 2 coaches and four new Level 2 Match Officials. While these participants still have to spend the next 6 months coaching and officiating to qualify for their final IRB certification, with the amount of Rugby Union being played in the Philippines at all levels, these new coaches and referees will finish the course and help develop the sport of Rugby Union further in the Philippines.

There are a number of exciting events scheduled for the 2011 Rugby year here in the Philippines and around Asia and this starts with the Hong Kong National Men's 15s team travelling to the Philippines to play in two Test Matches on April 14 and 16. The IRB have taken a specific interest in the developing the game of Rugby Union in Asia and this will culminate with the Rugby World Cup being played in Japan in 2019. The build up to this tournament has begun and the Philippines is certainly on the International Rugby Union map and with a population of 90 million people we have the resources to grow the sport and compete with top level Asian Countries.

## SONS OF LAPU LAPU TOP GROUP AT KIAMA 7s

The Filipino-Australian heritage rugby team, the Sons of Lapu-Lapu, have recorded their best ever finish at the Kiama 7s in Australia. Competing at the popular tournament were many of the Sydney Premiership teams along with other marquee teams such as Spartans Tonga and Lloyd McDermott, a team comprising of indigenous Australians.

In Game 1, the Sons of Lapu-Lapu were up against Avondale, a strong local club on the NSW South Coast. The Fil-Aus team were in complete control for long passages of the first half and were rewarded with a good try to captain Michael Letts. A mistake in defence soon allowed Avondale to hit back and level the scores. However, good play in the second half saw CJ Desacola and Jake Letts notch up two tries and the final score was 17-7 in favour of Filipino heritage team.

The second game was a much tougher encounter against one of the bigger Sydney Suburban clubs, Balmain. This is the club which current Wallaby Drew Mitchell decided to play for last year. With some free-flowing, end-to-end rugby, both teams struggled to gain ascendency. However a good team try finished off by Reggie Teagle enable the Sons of Lapu-Lapu to come away victorious 5-0.



Photo (The Sons of Lapu-Lapu resting between games, L to R: Michael Letts, Ned Stephenson, Reggie Teagle, CJ Desacola, Brian West, Justin Coveney, Simon Morgan, Chris Everingham, Jake Letts. Absent: Ted Smith, Jake Smith)

The two wins meant that the Filipino heritage team had topped its group and were now ranked in the top 16 teams of the competition. The Sons of Lapu-Lapu were drawn against Parramatta who was one of the 10 Sydney Premiership teams to advance to the Cup knockout rounds. Though the team enjoyed patches of good attack, the fitness factor certainly took effect and Parramatta were able to post 19 unanswered points with 3 good tries.

Special thanks must go to Damian Raper for coaching and managing the team in the absence of Coach Expo and also to Brian West and Carlo Descola for their help and support on the day. The 10 Fil-Aus players certainly represented the PRFU with pride in achieving our best ever result. Congratulations to our debutants CJ Desacola, Simon Morgan, Ted Smith and Jake Smith. Well done also to our "veteran" 7s campaigners Michael Letts, Jake Letts, Justin Coveney, Chris Everingham, Ned Stephenson and Reg Teagle.

The 7s program will take a break now with the PRFU concentrating on the upcoming test series versus Hong Kong followed by the A5N campaign in Korea. However in the second half of the year, there will be further trials for the PRFU 7s team which will compete at the Shanghai 7s and the Borneo 7s. Stay tuned to the PRFU website for more details.

## PHILIPPINE DEVT. TEAM BOW TO SABAH IN A TOUGH, PHYSICAL ENCOUNTER



On February 25, the Philippine National Development Team traveled to Kota Kinabalu to play their first ever International Rugby 15s match against the Sabah Regional Representative team. This was always going to be a close, hard game and it became very obvious on arrival at the Kota Kinabalu Hostel, where both teams were staying, that Sabah were out to win the game on their home soil. A majority of the Sabah Team have already played International Matches for the Malaysian Mens' team and they entered the game with both a size and experience advantage over the Philippine Team which had 12 players playing their first ever International game.

The game certainly had all the intensity that you would expect of an International Rugby Match and both teams held nothing back as they smashed into the first 20 minutes with some fierce tackles being made from both sides. The Philippines were led by some seasoned campaigners with Noel Flowers Jon Morales, Chris Hettel, Kit Guerra, John Odulio, David Carman and Daniel Melrose having all played for a Filipino Team in past games. These players certainly led the less experienced newcomers with passion and skill.

After 18 minutes, the Philippines were able to pin the Sabah Team in their own 22 meter zone. With John Odulio having a strong game in the second row and winning all his lineouts, the ball went wide to David Carman and he decided to take his opponent on the outside, David immediately outclassed his opposition and ran in to score the opening try of the game, this was converted by the Philippine Team Captain, Jon Morales to take the lead 7 - 0.

It wasn't long before the Sabah Team fought back and the Philippines Fullback, Noel "Daisy" Flowers, pulled off two try saving tackles to stop the Sabah boys from crossing the line in the second 20 minute period. Throughout this period, Sabah had the field advantage and the Philippines made some crucial errors in their quarter to put themselves under pressure, this directly led to Sabah swooping on a dropped pass and they scored just before halftime to take the score to 7 - 5.

The Sabah team came out firing in the third period and quickly scored to take a 12 - 7 lead and they started to use their size advantage in the forwards to control possession. Unfortunately for the Philippines, Kit Guerra had to leave the field with an ankle injury and he was replaced by Warren Carman who was playing his first game for the Philippines with his older brother David. At this point, the Philippines' two 17 year old for-



wards on the field, Daniel Melrose and Warren Carman, proved their worth as they showed a huge amount of courage and heart; playing in a heated contest with much bigger and more experienced men all around them.

Late in the third period the Philippines made a crucial error in their own quarter and gave up possession to allow the Sabah team to power over for another try. The Philippines seemed to be their own worst enemy and it was the less experienced newcomers that have now learned how vital it is to control possession and exit the red zone when under pressure. Noel Flowers once again made a try saving tackle and held up the ball with a much bigger opponent trying to force the ball over his body which was courageously placed between the Sabah No 8 and the ground. The Philippines did not give up and with 5 minutes left in the game they came storming back to force the Sabah team into making a mistake. Jon Morales was quick to pounce on this and linked up with David Carman who scored his second try taking two Sabah opponents over the line and bringing the Philippines back into the game at 19 - 14. The Philippines were then pinned in their own 10 meter zone and relentlessly saved three try attempts on their own line. When time ran out, everyone on the field was absolutely exhausted in what was one of the most passionate and physical games any of the Philippine National teams have witnessed.

At the end of the day all 24 Filipino players were able to take part in the game and the objective to introduce new development players into the game at an International level was certainly achieved. Sabah have agreed to play a return match in the Philippines later in 2011. National team coach Matt Cullen stated that "I am confident that the Philippines will turn around this result and obviously our new players will have learned a lot about playing at this new intensity level. Home advantage is always a factor in Rugby matches and congratulations to Sabah for winning the first leg of the International series on their home soil."

John Odulio was awarded the best forward and he played above his weight and won every lineout he was thrown. Best back went to the 2-try hero David Carman who was certainly well supported by Jon Morales and Aaron Briddon.

The Philippine Development team will now be a permanent feature of all the PRFU National teams and this program will provide young up and coming players who have learned and play their Rugby here in the Philippines with the competition to push for a spot in the National Men's 15s team that will compete in the A5N division 1 tournament this June in Korea.

The PRFU is looking forward to hosting the Sabah Rugby Union here in the Philippines and also making these games an annual feature that helps to promote and develop International Rugby Union in the region.



### COACHING STAFF:

Coach: Matthew Cullen  
Asst. Coach: Carlito Abono  
Team Manager: Randell Carman  
IRB Level 2 Referee: Harry Wang

### PHIL. NATL. DEV'T. TEAM 2011:

Arnold Aninion  
Jerrylou Branzuela  
Aaron Edward Bacos Briddon  
David Thomas Carman  
Warren Allen Carman  
Paulino Chiu Jr.  
Sergio Coronel Jr.  
Glenn Victor Denton  
John Etcubañas Faburada  
Noel George Flowers  
Dino Gonzales  
Francisco B. Guerra IV  
Christopher Philip Hettel  
John Paul Jordan  
Reanito Lawas  
Lester Medina Loma  
William Leysa  
Daniel Melrose  
Jon Dennis Morales  
John Ziegfried Odulio  
Jeepy Paypon  
Jovic Paypon  
Edwin Ramos  
Joselito Talosig



## CBRE JUNIORS STARTS WITH 300 CHILDREN FOR 2011

The first CBRE Juniors Tournament for 2011 was held at the International School of Manila last Saturday January 29th and it was great to up to 300 children aged between 6 and 16 years turn up to play both Touch and Tackle Rugby. The tournament was coordinated by the new PRFU Juniors Committee Head, Mr. Rob Hawtree and with the great facilities at ISM he was able to split the event into two sections with the u8 – u14 teams playing Touch Rugby on middle school field and the u14 and u16 boys playing tackles Rugby Games on the main pitch.

New Juniors Sponsor, Rick Santos from CBRE could not believe the amount of participants. "What was truly inspiring was to see the amount of Foundation Children becoming involved in the PRFU Juniors programs."

The PRFU are now running Junior Rugby Development programs at the Tuloy, Bahay Bata, Duyan Ni Maria Foundations and most recently the WE International Foundation who are based at Smokey Mountain in Tondo. The PRFU would like to thanks the various Companies and Clubs that have come on board to help sponsor the programs at the Foundations:

Tuloy Foundation – LEIGHTONS and HMR

Bahay Bata – OVERGAARD, Pot Bellied Pigs and Nomads Rugby Clubs

Duyan Ni Maria – Orchid Hotel

Smokey Mountain – PRFU and ISM supplied the transport last Saturday

Along with the Foundation teams we also had the school and club teams from all over Manila come and play in the various age divisions (u8 u10 u12 u14 u16) and these included, British School Manila, Eagles Juniors, International School of Manila, Nomads Juniors and the Manila Hapons. All these clubs and schools entered teams in the various age groups and a strong base has been set for all the monthly CBRE Juniors Tournaments in 2011.

One of the focus points for the PRFU in 2011 is to further develop the sport of Rugby Union in the Juniors Divisions and this year the PRFU will select Philippine National teams for both the u14 and u16 age groups. These teams have been invited to play against their Hong Kong counterparts and these teams will be selected from a combination of School, Club and Foundation based players. This will be the first time the PRFU have selected and toured with underage teams and all the junior players are very excited and motivated to be selected in the first ever National Junior teams.

Thanks in advance to all those involved in supporting the CBRE Juniors Rugby Tournaments throughout 2011.



## PRFU 10s LEAGUE KICKS OFF FOR 2011

The first games of Rugby Union have been played for 2011 and it was the oldest club in the Philippines, Nomads Rugby Club that began in style with two comfortable wins over their cross town rivals the Alabang Eagles. This year the PRFU 10s league started in late January to allow all club teams at least two months to fully prepare for the Manila 10s which will be held at Nomads on March 19/20th.

The season opened with the Nomads slowly taking the pitch after the Alabang Ibons had undertaken a 20 minute warm up, this may have done more good than harm and it was the Carabaos that started more aggressively to take a halftime lead of 14 – 5. Carabaos Captain Sean Georget led by example and scored the opening try for his team and then out of the blue, Steve "Scotty" Mitchell managed throw away the years and at 55 scored a double when he threw a dummy to know one and everyone fell for it, including the referee and then stormed like a raging bull from the back of an attacking lineout to force a dropped ball behind and the Ibons tryline and dive on the loose ball to score his second try in the season's opening game. Steve has obviously laid early claims to Nomads players of the year by scoring a double at 55 years of age in the first game of season. On the back of "Steve the Scotsman" attacking raids the Carabaos ran out easy winners by 45 – 5.

The second game of the day saw a rejuvenated Manila Hapons show up to Nomads with more than the usual 10 players and the new players also proved that they can play quality rugby by defeating the Philippine Development Team by 29 – 19. The Hapons have obviously spent the off season recruiting new Japanese players to their team and up to 18 players were ready to play in the first game of the season, this bodes well for the Hapons and they definitely looked like they mean business in 2011, with all their new recruits having an impact on the game. The Development team were depleted with a majority of the National Development team playing for the Eagles in the last game of the round. Take nothing away from a new Hapons team; they will be a new force to reckon with in 2011.

The last game of the round had the Alabang Eagles v Nomads in a replay of last year's A division final. National Team Players David Carman and John Morales went head to head and led their teams into the first game of the season, unfortunately for both players they would have to leave the field during the game with David sidelined in the first half after scoring the Eagles solo try and John coming of the field late in the Second half after having a try disallowed. Overall it was a dominant display by the Nomads with Sam Fogg scoring a hat trick of tries to lead the Nomads to a convincing 45 to 22 win. The Nomads forwards outplayed the Eagles and once again penalties would be the Eagles downfall with two of Nomads first half tries coming on the back of high tackle penalties.

PRFU 10s League table after rd 1:

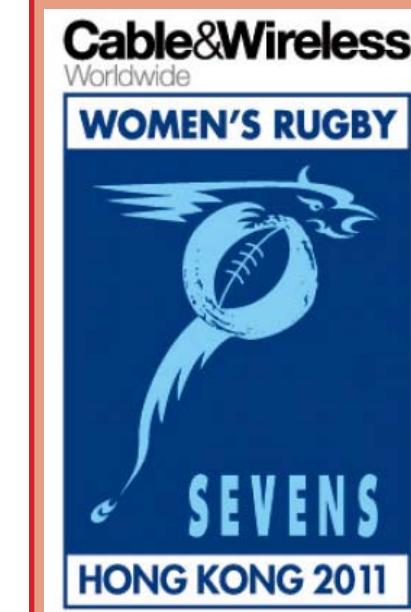
Nomads 3 pts (45 F 22 A) / Eagles 1 pt (22 F 45 A) / Hapons 3 pts (29 F 19 A)

Dev Team 1pt (19 F 29 A) / Carabaos 3pts (45 F 5 A) / Ibons 1pt (5F 45A)

## PHILIPPINE WOMEN's 7s TEAM HEADED TO HK SEVENS

Based on their stellar performance in Guangzhou last year, the Philippine National Women's 7s team have been invited to compete in the Cable & Wireless Worldwide Hong Kong Women's Rugby Sevens. The PRFU has accepted the invitation and has chosen the following players to represent the Philippines:

- Dyesebel Diaz
- Jackie Finlan
- Nikki Lira
- Aiumi Ono
- Trixie Pacis
- Alana Padilla
- Rosette Rough
- Manila Santos
- Isabela Silva
- Cassie Umali



It is the 14th Year of the Tournament which will be played at the Hong Kong Football Club and Hong Kong Stadium on March 24 & 25, 2011. With the world's top-ranked teams slated to see action at the tournament, our National Team will meet stiff competition. Nevertheless, the ladies are training hard. They are excitedly looking forward to the challenge and the valuable experience that they will surely gain from their invitation to participate for the first time at the Women's Hong Kong Rugby Sevens, and after only one season together as a Philippine National team.

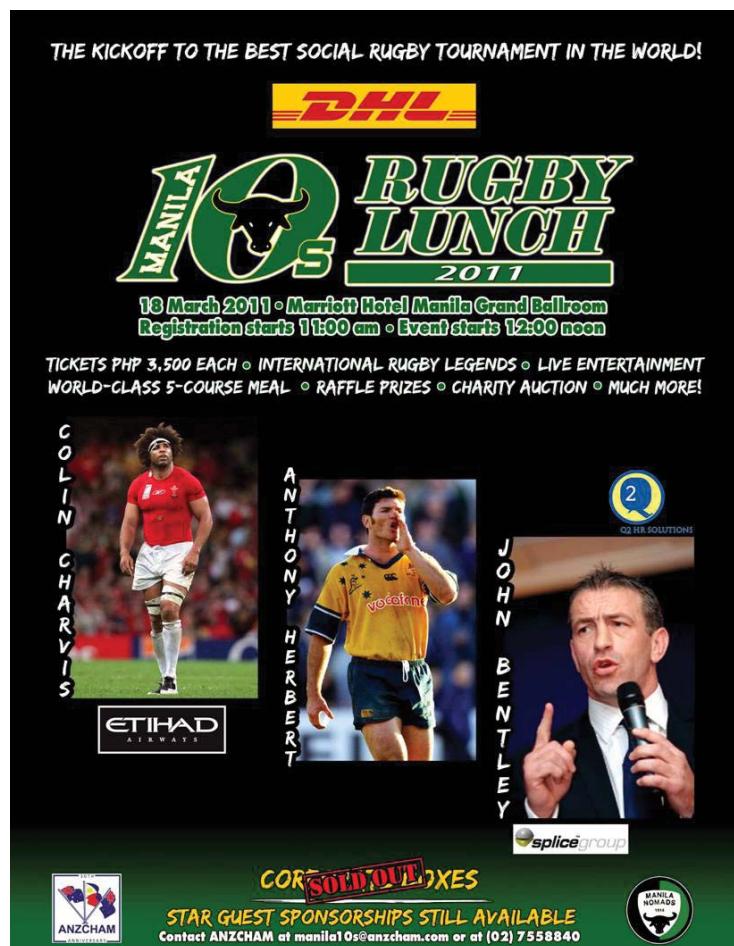
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH

- 9:** PRFU 10s League Finals | Nomads
- PRFU Monthly Board Meeting | Nomads
- 18:** Manila 10s Rugby Lunch | Marriott Manila
- 19 - 20:** Manila 10s Tournament | Nomads
- CBRE Juniors Game (Bahay Bata v BSM) | Nomads
- 24 - 25:** C&W Worldwide Women's Rugby Sevens HK
- 25 - 27:** Hong Kong Sevens

## APRIL

- 9:** PRFU 15s League Rd 1 | Nomads
  - 9:** Cebu 10s | Venue TBA
  - 9-13:** Phil National Men's 15s Elite Training Camp | Manila & WOL Camp
  - 13:** PRFU Monthly Board Meeting
  - 14 & 16:** Philippines v. Hong Kong National Men's 15's Test Matches | Nomad Sports Club
  - 21 - 24:** Easter Weekend
- Schedules and venues are subject to change*



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