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**PHILIPPINE RUGBY
FOOTBALL UNION
3/F Room 305, Building B
PhilSports Complex, Meralco
Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 7064668
admin_manager@prfu.com
www.prfu.com**

Sons of Lapu Lapu Impress at Australian Rugby 7s Tournament

The Sons of Lapu Lapu made their presence felt once again at the Kiama 7s rugby tournament held last week on the South Coast of NSW, Australia. The Sydney based Filipino heritage team was one of 48 teams competing in the carnival which included the Australian 7s team, a large number of Sydney and Canberra Premiership clubs and two Tongan sides who flew over especially for the tournament. The team performed admirably and were eliminated by Randwick, the eventual Plate winners.

In the group stages the sons of Lapu Lapu were matched up against two very strong clubs. Firstly, The Vikings who boast a number of Wallabies and have dominated club rugby in Canberra for a number of years and The Entrance who compete in the tough Central Coast region.

The Filipino boys were slow out of the blocks and The Vikings made them pay. A number of defensive lapses with players trying to tackle too high ensured The Vikings ran away with a comfortable six tries to nil win. With the threat of an early exit looming, the Sons of Lapu Lapu reacted brilliantly in the next game and The Entrance were now on the receiving end of the punishment. After Matt Saunders scored a great try in the first minute, the Filipino players never looked back and the victory was made complete with further tries to Pete Smith, Oly Saunders and



Sons of Lapu Lapu - [front row l to r] James Webb, Ron Pena, Cleo Gomez, Andrew Barbacetto, Oliver Saunders (c), [middle row] Murphy Aloda, Ken Dizon, Jake Letts (vc), Junior Aloda, Expo Mejia, Kimmy Hilis, [back row] Raf Zappia, Pete Smith, Rupert Zappia, Matt Saunders.

Andrew Barbacetto. Finishing second in the group meant the team would play for the Plate and a knockout game against the famous Randwick club awaited the Sons of Lapu Lapu.



Andrew Barbacetto breaks through the Vikings defence.

Randwick had come with a full strength team which included two former Australian 7s representatives. The 'Galloping Greens' went in for the first try but the Filipino boys bounced straight back with their best try of the day, a sweeping move using the full width of the field for Ron Pena to cross over in the corner and level up the game. A crucial try minutes after the bell put Randwick in front at the break and despite the valiant efforts of the boys, they leaked another two tries in the second half with the final score being 5-22. Randwick went on to win the Plate beating Old Ignatians 24-5.

Overall it was a great effort by the Filipino boys and special congratulations to Junior Aloda, Kimmy Hilis and Pete Smith who all made their debut for the senior squad. Special thanks to Murphy Aloda for the photos and to Ken Dizon as acting manager after being unavailable for selection. We now turn our focus to the Asian 7s circuit with

the full national team participating in Shanghai, Borneo and the Asian Games in the second half of the year.

If you are a rugby player of Filipino heritage and would like further information regarding the national rugby program then please contact the national head coach, Expo Mejia on emejia@australasianrugby.com.

Active Fun Juniors League Kicks off with Tackle Rugby Union in 2010

The first Active Fun Juniors tournament took place at the British School Manila with teams participating in U/8s, U/10s, U/12s, U/14s and U/16s games. The Schools and Clubs that entered this tournament included BSM, ISM, Nomads, Bahay Bata, Japan and Tuloy. Games were played in a friendly but competitive spirit with the Bahay Bata teams remaining undefeated in the U/8 and 10's categories,

Tuloy winning their games in the U/12's competition and Bahay Bata and Tuloy winning one game each in the U/16 division.

One of the highlights of the morning was the U/14s tackle Rugby 10s game that was played between the British School and Bahay Bata. This was Bahay Bata's first ever attempt at playing tackle rugby and they were very excited at the prospect of

Bahay Bata & Duyan Ni Maria teams at the Active Fun Juniors Tournament





more tackle rugby games in the Active Fun monthly juniors tournaments and it is expected that other school and club teams will take up the option of playing tackle rugby over touch football at these events.

(left) Tuloy Foundation

(below) Roy Dallison coaches the British School Juniors



finally playing in a full contact game. The British school began strongly and took a 10-5 lead in the first quarter. The game was evenly matched with both teams making some fundamental errors and allowing their opponents to score tries. As the game entered the final quarter, it was still BSM who held a one try lead at 20-15. Bahay Bata came out firing in the last quarter and ran in 3 tries to seal victory in their first game by 35-20.

This game has now opened the way for

Philippine National Development Team Enter the Manila 10's

The Philippine National Development Team was the brainchild of Randell Carman who saw the need to not only have a National Team that is comprised of a combination of overseas and local Filipino players, but to also have a locally based (National) development team that trains and plays to help prepare local players for the step up to National Team duties.



The Philippine National Development Team

The Philippine National Development team train at Philsports Ultra Stadium every Monday and Wednesday evening and have been together for the last six weeks. The Manila 10's will be their first serious tournament. With a cross section of beginners and some club players the Development Team are well placed in the shield division and are intent at making an impression by winning this division at their first Manila 10's tournament.

Team when they travel to Kota Kinabalu this July to play international games against Brunei and Sabah.

If any local Filipino players would like to join the National Development team then please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Cullen at 0917-5004047.

The team will play as the Philippine National

PRFU 10s Leagues Round 2

Round 2 of the PRFU 10s League was played at Nomads and once again saw three games of 10's rugby being played in preparation for the annual Manila 10's tournament on March 19-21. The first game was played between the Alabang Ibons and the Carabaos. With both these teams winning their Round 1 games, this game could prove to be vital in winning the "B" Division. The Carabaos had a number of expatriate players and certainly had a size advantage over the smaller and less experienced

performance for the Ibons in Round 1. The Carabaos who are led by Ian Taylor will now be hard to beat in the final round of the PRFU 10s league at Nomads on the 27th of February. With 2 wins from 2 games, they are definitely in the prime seat to take out the "B" division trophy for 2010.

The second game of the day in the "A" Division had Eagles play Nomads and again it was the Nomads team who relied on their experienced forwards who proved too strong for a smaller and inexperienced Eagles team. Unfortunately, the Eagles lost two of their National Team players in David Carman and Andrew Wolff and their replacements were not of the same caliber and their field presence and experience was sorely missed. This in turn allowed another two National team players from the Nomads, Romain Barberis and Hamish Reid to display their strong forward oriented play and between these two players, the Nomads did not concede one line-out in the whole game. With a glut of possession, the Nomads ran out easy winners by 27-13

The last game of the day had the newly formed Philippine National Development Team train at the Philsports Stadium (ULTRA) in Pasig every Monday at 6pm and all local Filipino players can attend this session to learn and develop their skills in Rugby Union. This team plans to travel to play International development games against Brunei and Sabah (Borneo).

The Manila Hapons have all grown up playing Rugby Union in Japan and this experience proved to be the difference between the Hapons and the Philippine Development team. The Hapons won the game 26-12.

Unfortunately, the Annual Alabang 10s Tournament has been moved to Saturday, July 10th.



Nomads Captain Sam Chittick breaks away from the Eagles Defense.

Filipino players for the Ibons. The size and experience factor for the Carabaos became apparent when stalwart ex-national prop Jerry Echter was able to score two early tries which both came on the back of Ibons mistakes in their own quarter. The much anticipated game turned into a one way victory for the Carabaos and the Ibons certainly missed Andrea Engelbrecht who has been promoted to the Eagles after a strong



Manila Hapons



Romain Barberis and Hamish Reid take on the Eagles defense

PRFU Juniors Watch Private Showing of “Invictus”

The PRFU were extremely grateful when Mr. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala sent a personal invite to the PRFU asking players to attend a private showing of “Invictus” at the “My Cinema” theatre in Greenbelt 3. The PRFU board decided that the junior players from Bahay Bata, Nomads, Manila Hapons and the British School be invited to attend the Movie and arranged a special practice on Sat March 6th at the British School. After the two hour practice session, all the junior players were invited to attend the *Invictus* showing at 2pm.



For all the boys attending from the Bahay Bata Foundation, it was not only their first time to visit the Ayala Greenbelt mall but also their first experience of watching this classic rugby union movie in a theatre. Up to fifty junior players attended both the practice at the British School and then enjoyed a group lunch at Greenbelt before entering the My Cinema.

The *Invictus* movie is a story about the friendship and respect that was associated with the 1995 Rugby World Cup that was held in South Africa. It was inspiring to watch Morgan Freeman play the role of Nelson Mandela and Matt Damon play Springbok captain Francois Pienaar and witness how a true friendship and respect of the game of rugby union united the nation to win the Rugby World Cup.

The storyline showed how the sport of rugby union was able to help break down the barriers of apartheid and everyone in South Africa came together to embrace a

team that beat all odds to win in their own country in front of a nation that had just voted Nelson Mandela in as their President.

The junior players were inspired to see the *Invictus* Movie on the big screen and appreciated the hardships faced by the South African Nation as they moved away from

Apartheid, with everyone joining forces to win the Rugby World Cup. The movie displayed the great passion that Rugby Union can instill in people and certainly gave the PRFU junior

players the inspiration to continue training and strive to represent the Philippines in Rugby Union.

Thanks must be extended to the following people for making this event such a special day for all the junior rugby players involved:

Mr. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala – hosting of film viewing at “My Cinema”, Greenbelt and funding for this event.

Nomads Rugby Club – Provided the bus transport for the Bahay Bata Foundation to attend this event.

Give A Life Foundation – Donation of lunch at the Greenbelt Complex and food and drinks for all who attended the movie.

British School Manila – Providing the training venue for the juniors’ rugby practice sessions.

Bahay Bata Foundation – Allowing the 30 boys to travel down from Pampanga to enjoy the event.

Manila 10's Lunch

The 2010 Manila 10's lunch was held at the newly opened Marriott Hotel opposite the NAIA 3 airport and proved to be one of the most successful and enjoyable Rugby Lunches that have been staged here in Manila over the last seven years.

This year's lunch featured Wallaby legend **JOE ROFF** and New Zealand Maori and 7's player **KARL TENANA**. Both players are still in their mid-thirties and arrived in Manila ready to be guest speakers at the lunch and also strap on their boots to play in the best social tens tournament in Asia, "The MANILA 10's."

The lunch compared by **JUSTIN SAMPSON** who has hosted every Lunch since 2003 and he seems to become better with age, although this year his hair seemed a darker shade of brown compared to previous events. Once again Sambo was still able to bring the crowd alive with his witty jokes that were focused on the two visiting guest speakers and their playing positions in the backline.

Joe Roff was first to speak and he is one of only a handful of players to win the following accolades: 1) World Cup, 2) Tri Nations, 3) Bledisloe Cup, 4) Wallaby Player of the Year, 5) Brumbies Super 12's Champions.

He played in the 1999 Wallaby World Cup winning team and also rated the 2003 England World Cup winning team as his hardest



opponents. Before the lunch Joe was up at 6am to help run a juniors Rugby training program at the British School Manila from 7:15am to 9:00am. Joe also managed to make a couple of

appearances for the CS Larrikins and obviously decided to give younger members of the eventual tournament winners the opportunity to show their skills.

Karl, who is a Rugby TV host for "This given Sunday" in New Zealand, spoke of his days as a Maori All Blacks player and how he loved to participate in the legendary MAORI HAKA before and after games. Karl is remembered by most as a specialist New Zealand 7s player and he won two Hong Kong 7s crowns and also received a Gold Medal at the Manchester Commonwealth Games. Karl showed



that he has not lost any of his skills when he ran on the field for the CS Larrikins, with his first two touches of the ball resulting in tries.

Justin, Joe and Karl also took time out at the lunch to speak with sponsors and crowd members and everyone who attended the lunch spoke highly of the Marriott Hotel and the 2010 guest speakers.

Many thanks must be extended to Bill Bailey from Nomads for once again organizing this wonderful event. Bill and his committee worked tirelessly over the last few months and the fruits of their labors paid off with everyone enjoying and praising the 2010 Manila 10's Rugby Lunch.

The PRFU would also like to thank ANZCHAM for coordinating the lunch event and assisting Bill with organizing the whole event.

These events could not happen without the excellent support from the PRFU Sponsors and these include: *Overgaard, Pot Bellied Pigs RFC, Seapac Philippines Inc., HMR, Genric, Hardys, Active Fun, Brisbane Technologies,*

Focused Business Solutions, Murphys, Orchid Inn, RJH Consultancy, Rugby in Asia, TCC Shipping. They are the backbone of rugby development and events here in the Philippines.

Finally the PRFU would like to thank the Manila 10s Lunch Corporate sponsors: *Masbate Gold Project, Q2 HR Solutions, Blue Cross Insurance, Asian Tigers Lane Moving & Storage, Coca-Cola, Future Trade International, Marriott Manila, San Miguel Corporation, Oakwood, Crawford, Davis Langdon & Seah, Leighton, Orica, McConnell Dowell, RMD Kwikform and Pasig Penguins,* who all had an enjoyable day eating steaks, drinking beer and socializing with each other at this great event.



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PRFU UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 to 8** - PRFU National Men's 15's Elite Training Camp, Sydney
- 2** - IRB Rugby Ready, Sydney
- 17** - PRFU Ladies 7s / PRFU 15's League Round 1, Nomads
- 18** - Active Fun Juniors, Polo Club
- 24** - Cebu 10's Tournament, Cebu International School



BE A PART OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM 2010

Monday and Wednesday nights at Philsports Stadium (ULTRA)

6PM-8PM



National Development Team to travel on an international tour in 2010 to play against Brunei and Sabah

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MATT CULLEN: 0917-5004047 OR 706-7668

MAY

- 8** - PRFU 15's League Round 2 / PRFU Ladies 7's / U20's National Team Trials, Nomads
- 15** - Active Fun Juniors / PRFU Ladies 7's / PRFU 15's Round 3 / Philippine National Team Trials, University of Makati
- 22** - PRFU 15's Round 4, TBA
- 26 to 30** - National Team Training Camp, Philsports / Nomads
- 29** - National Team vs. Nomads Trial Game, Nomads
- 31** - A5N Division 2 Philippine National 15's Team, New Dehli, India

Cebu City Rugby Football Club presents:

CEBU 10's

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FESTIVAL
Aboitiz Field (Beside Makro NRA)
Cebu City, Philippines • April 24, 2010

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