



Philippines RUGBY & MAUL

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

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PRFU Rugby Development Reaches Don Bosco Technical College

By: Juan Engelbrecht

Don Bosco School Inc. - Manila, is one of the schools owned and administered by the Salesians of Don Bosco. It began its operation in 1989 with a phase-in/phase-out program with the Don Bosco Technical College - Mandaluyong which was completed in 1992.

Don Bosco is now one of the biggest Technical Colleges in the Philippines. It is an institution that strives to educate Filipinos in a Christian environment, with minimal financial aid, thus giving them a chance at a better life. They also take care of nearby orphanages which have a total of 80 orphans being housed collectively.

Mr. Rick Hartley, having heard of their heartwarming deeds, decided to support Don Bosco in its activities. With sponsorship from RJH Consultancy and rugby training from head coaches Rick Hartley, Juan Engelbrecht and Andrea Engelbrecht, rugby has become quite the sensation in Don Bosco School Manila.

The sponsorship from RJH Consultancy continues to draw boys from Don Bosco to join the Rugby Club which rugby on its own would not have accomplished. The first practice had an attendance of around 12 boys participating and continued on at the same pace for the second practice. At the end of the second practice, gifts were given to the regulars, which were greatly appreciated by the Don Bosco boys who did not waste time to spread the word throughout the College.

At the very next practice, 43 boys showed up for rugby training. Now, with a regular of 40 boys attending, the rugby club at Don Bosco has become well known. A regular crowd of spectators are also showing up at the training, including both boys and girls, and with the interest being shown by the students, it won't be long before the girls will want to join in.



Don Bosco Students with Coaches Rick Hartley, Juan Engelbrecht and Andrea Engelbrecht

On behalf of the PRFU, We wish to say thank you to RJH Consultancy for their financial support and also to Coaches Rick Hartley and Andrea Engelbrecht for their time and efforts spent for training these boys, which can be tough at times, having to overcome the language barrier.

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

Round 1 and 2 PRFU 10's League 2009

Round 1 saw six teams travel to participate in the PRFU 10's. The first game played was for the "A" Division between cross town rivals the Alabang Eagles and the Nomads. Both teams started strongly but it was the Nomads who showed superior ability and enthusiasm in the breakdown at Rucks and Mauls that enabled them to dominate possession and run out winners with a final score of 33-10.



The "B" division is being contested between four teams, namely the Japan Rugby Club, Alabang Ibons, MAAP and Carabaos. For the first "B" Division game, it was the Japan Rugby Union Club who came firing to beat a spirited MAAP Warrior's team. The Japan Rugby Club controlled possession and ground out a close fought 46 to 22 win over the pacy MAAP outfit.

The next "B" Division game was played between the Alabang Ibons and the Nomads Carabaos. The game was the closest all night and it really was an arm wrestle with the Ibons going to the halftime break with a 2 point lead 7 - 5. The second half proved to be an exciting as the first and the lead changed three times until the Ibons fullback and best player 'Hooky' burst through the Carabaos defense to score under the posts. The try was converted and the Ibons won 19 -17.

Round 2 was just as exciting.

The Ibons looked strong from the start of their game against MAAP and were able to outmuscle their smaller opponents. It was JJ Dawal from HMR who opened the scoring for the Ibons which was closely followed by a try from Josh Moja from the Adventist University who also ended up with the best player award. Josh was well supported by Adventist Club mate 'Hookey' who ended up running in 4 tries and is pushing for a starting position in the Eagles 'A' Team. The Ibons won the game 57-12.

The Carabaos then registered their first win in the PRFU 10's 'B' Division series by beating a defiant Japan Team by 36-22. In this high scoring affair the Carabaos ran in 5 tries to 4 and it was goal kicking that made the difference with the Carabaos converting three tries compared to Japan's solo conversion. The game was a physical encounter and the Carabaos were able to secure position in the second half to hold out spirited Japanese Team.

The rejuvenated Alabang Eagles came out with a determined attitude when they lined up against Nomads in the second round of the 'A' Division PRFU 10's league at Nomads last Saturday evening.

The game started at a ferocious pace and it was Eagles Captain Andrew Wolff who busted through some solid Nomads defense to score beside the posts, the try was converted by Rupert Zappia. The second try for the Eagles was scored by substitute player 'Hookey' after Ronald Fong stole a Nomads ball at a line out to set up the Eagles backs, the try was again converted by Rupert Zappia.

It seemed as though the game was in the bag but Nomads came back and started to lift the tempo of the game. Nomads applied the pressure and were able to score before halftime to take the score to 14-7 at the break. The Eagles regrouped at halftime, ran in four unanswered tries in the second half to win the game 38-7.



Round 1 and 2 PRFU 10's League 2009



Expats impressed with the newly developed PNPA's performance

By: Juan Engelbrecht

Training has been taking place at PNPA for several months now but it was only two weeks ago when the PNPA Lakans made the step up from being one of the best touch teams in the Philippines, to being the "newbies" at contact rugby. Of course making this transition was not as easy as it sounded.

They needed to be taught all the new rules of contact; rules like how to tackle the opponent and not just touch them. They also needed to learn other rules such as scrums, line outs and kickoffs. Then there was the occurring problem of keeping the backline out of a ruck and forming a defensive backline.

Over the three day period Coaches Juan Engelbrecht, Ahlo Abono, Matt Cullen and Rick Hartley managed to complete all of these tasks and get them through their first practice game. After all the preparation, it was time to introduce the team to the rugby world with their first real game against the Nomads Carabaos on the Carabaos home field. The PNPA ladies started the day off with a game of touch against the Nomads Bullet ladies. They performed well against a much more experienced team and everyone walked off with a good practice behind them.

Eventually, it was time for the PNPA Lakans to make their debut against the Carabaos. The PNPA started off well and kept the Carabaos securely in their half. However, after the Carabaos got over their initial shock and realized that the PNPA team had come to win, they kicked it up a gear and scored two unanswered tries in the first half. They showed that with more experience and quick phases they could over run the PNPA squad.

Coach Juan had a hard talk with the PNPA squad during half time and the boys started the second half fired up. With strength in the PNPA scrum and line outs they quickly turned over Carabaos ball spread it wide and scored two excellent tries down the line with the help of PNPA wing Arman Tuban's lightning speed. The PNPA had the lead for the first time and had only to wait for the time to run out when a vital error lead to a Carabao scoring in the final second of the game beating the PNPA Lakans 12-15.

All the supporters where immensely impressed with the PNPA Lakans performance and congratulations for a great debut went all around the field, even the visiting Navy team had words of congratulations for the impressive PNPA Lakans.

After the successful contact rugby debut the Engelbrecht family decided to take out the PNPA squad to Union Jack in Festival for a celebration. Food and drinks were plenty and the PNPA squad celebrated whole heartedly.

With cheerful celebrations a new rugby club has sprung root in the Philippines. Welcome to the PNPA Lakans Rugby Club and we hope that things will only get better from here on out.

On behalf of the PRFU, we would like to say thank you to the Engelbrecht family who sponsored the evening at the Union Jack and also to all the PNPA players who enjoy playing this barbaric game we call rugby.



PRFU South Manila Rugby 10's Tri- Series Starts

Last Tuesday, 17th of February, the PRFU South Manila Rugby 10's Tri- Series kicked off and it was the new boys on the block 'PNPA' who hit the ground running. All three teams, HMR Envirocycle, Adventist University and the PNPA Cavite turned out to play under lights at the Adventist University field. The first game saw the undefeated Adventist University team take on the youthful PNPA Team. This game proved to be a tough contest with both teams displaying solid defense. The PNPA team was able to control the ball and their superior fitness allowed them to score a "two tries to one" upset victory and win the game 10-5.

The PNPA team who are coached by Juan Engelbrecht, who was recently employed as a PRFU development officer, showed that their training has paid off with all the PNPA players becoming involved in the game and displaying a sound knowledge of the rules and tactics of Rugby Union.

The second game saw the Adventist University Unicorns take on the HMR- Envirocycle crickets. The Adventist team was not happy about their loss to the PNPA and came out for revenge. Once again the HMR Envirocycle Team was unable to cover the elusive 'Hooky' who scored a hat trick of tries.

Adventist Captain and Coach Evans Maina also played a strong game and was happy with his teams performance in their second game of the evening.

Round 2 of the PRFU South Manila Tri- Series will take place at the Adventist University on Thursday 2nd of April 2009.



New PRFU Development Officer

The PRFU are proud to announce the newest addition to the PRFU staff, Coach Juan Engelbrecht. Even before joining the PRFU team as a development officer, Juan had already been regularly contributing to rugby development by training the PNPA team in Cavite and was also a member of the National Under-20 team. At present, he continues to coach the PNPA Lakans, assists Coach Rick Hartley in training the newest development team Don Bosco Rugby Club and is also involved in building up many other development teams.

PRFU development officer, Juan Engelbrecht

Cebu Dragons draw first blood in Dragons Rugby Challenge Cup

The first installment of the Challenge Cup was played in muggy conditions at the newly opened Aboitiz Stadium in Cebu over the weekend. In a bruising contest, characterized by heavy tackling from both sides, the local Cebu Dragons were able to hold off the Low-Flyers 10 tries to 5, and now take a 1 – 0 series lead in the Challenge Cup.

With both backlines boasting international rugby experience, every time the ball was moved wide, the game opened up. First blood was drawn by the Cebu Dragons in the early minutes when winger Marlou Luceña scored the first of his three tries by exposing the Low-Flyers on the right flank. In a see-saw battle, the Low-Flyers were able to strike back almost immediately through Tony Jarman, who also bagged a double for the day.

The first half was highlighted by some solid tackling from the Dragons National Under 20's representative Lester Loma, and some strong running from the Low-Flyers former Tongan International Hola Iketau. When the half-time whistle blew, the Dragons held a slight edge in the contest 5 tries to 2.

The second stanza saw more of the same, with bone-crunching defense from both sides. But as the game wore on, the younger Dragons were able to expose their older rivals through some enterprising support play and length of the field kick and chases. Nevertheless, with only minutes to go, three points in the lead with the score at 8 tries to 5. An individual length of the field effort by Philippine International Noel Flowers with almost no time on the clock sealed the victory for the Dragons, and a try in the last play of the game to Jeffrey Veraces, playing in his first ever rugby game, was the icing on the cake.

It was also notable that two of the Pink Dragons woman's team continued their transition into full contact rugby, with both Maggie Royo and Rose Sta. Ana taking a stint on the wing for the Dragons.

The next installment of the 12-game series will take place on March 7, at the University of the Philippines Campus in Lahug, Cebu . Where the Low-Flyers will be looking to even the score in this friendly hometown rivalry.

Tries:

Cebu Dragons: N.Flowers (4), M.Luceña (3), J.Branzuela (1), J. Veraces (1), R.Licardo (1)
Low Flying Dragons: T.Jarman (2), H.Ikatau (1), S. Phillips (1), J. Whittaker (1)



Watch out for:



Cebu City Football Club present
CEBU 10'S
INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FESTIVAL
Aboitiz Field (Beside Makro NRA)
Cebu City, Philippines • April 25, 2009

Featuring the Special Runoff Rematch

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Travel and accommodation packages are available upon request. For more info, contact Damien Allison at: damien.gustavian@gmail.com or Mobile # +63918-6389998

“Filipino Team makes Plate round of Kiama Rugby 7s”

By: Erick Elefante

“We traveled for 5 hours to get here only to be beaten by a bunch of Filipinos” jibed a Grenfell RUFC Rugby player as he contemplated losing 31-5 to the Sons of Lapu Lapu rugby team. This may have been similar words uttered by Magellan as he confronted Lapu Lapu on the beaches of Cebu and it certainly were the words from the Grenfell rugby team dealing with the Sons of Lapu Lapu which fittingly had 3 Cebuanoes on the shores of Kiama beach.

Grenfell RUFC is a country team from Central NSW playing in the tough Waga Waga & Hay competition and they came into this game with a surprising amount of intelligence on the Sons of Lapu Lapu and its players. So they went into the match feeling that they had done their homework to defeat the team, which was not to be because in the space of the first 30seconds of the match Cleo Gomez in his first appearance for a Philippines rugby team opened the scoring for the Sons of Lapu Lapu.

Philippines National Rugby 7s Head Coach Rick Hartley liked what he saw in this inaugural Filipino-Heritage rugby team and the work his Australian based coaches Mike Letts and Alan Macdonald had done to prepare this team within a short month. Head Coach Rick Hartley is now aware of the rugby talent he has to work with as he prepares the Philippines National Rugby 7s team for the ARFU Rugby 7s tournament in Sri Lanka in September and the South East Asian games in Laos in December if Rugby 7s is included in this regional sporting event where he coached the Philippines to a Silver medal in Thailand in 2007.

The squad acquitted themselves well in their first appearance in this prestigious rugby tournament against NSW leading professional rugby union clubs who had been preparing for this tournament since November 2008.

Our young Filipino rugby players forced last years Kiama 7s Champion Manly RUFC to step up a gear to deal with Filipino players who were smaller than them. The Manly team were surprised that they only had a 7-0 lead for most of the 1st half with the Sons of Lapu Lapu only conceding a 2nd try near the end to go into the break with a 12-0 lead. The defending Champions increased their intensity in the 2nd half to overcome the Sons of Lapu Lapu using their bulk, speed and experience to stretch the team’s defense and create the overlaps to score their remaining tries with a final score of 33-0.

As the squad progressed into the Plate Group stage of matches they put a scare on last year’s semi- finalist Paramatta 2Blues RUFC as they scored the first try through the combination of the two youngest members of the team 16 year olds Ned Stephenson who made a brilliant 30metre run to break up the Paramatta defense and off load to Ben Saunders who scored in the corner. The Sons of Lapu Lapu held off their larger Paramatta opponents for most of the 1st half and it was only late into the game that they equalized and took a slim 10-5 lead after scoring on the siren. Paramatta realized they had a game on their hands and were forced to dig deep to overcome a valiant Filipino-heritage team, but they were only able to score one additional try in the second half being held back by dogged Sons of Lapu Lapu defense, with only inexperience, wrong options and dropped balls awarding Paramatta a lucky victory.

Captain Oliver Saunders and his Vice Captain Jake Letts, both from the Warringah RUFC were the only two grade players in this squad and they were proud of their young team’s performance against professional opposition. With current Philippines rugby internationals Ben Saunders and Andrew Barbecetto as reliable as ever having strong games and new blood’s Cleo Gomez, Ned Stephenson and Thamer Wilczynski showing the depth of Filipino-heritage rugby talent in Sydney. It was evident from the team’s performance and results on the day that with more preparation, game time and experience, the Sons of Lapu Lapu can mix it up with NSW premier rugby union teams, even the ones that have won this tournament and challenge them on an equal footing in the not to distant future.

Thanks must go to Warringah RUFC who provided administrative support and Physiotherapist Eliza Collier for this team and our sponsors’ Focused Business Solutions and RJH Consultancy, Inc, who were pleased with the performance of this young and courageous Filipino-heritage rugby team, as they went up against older and more experienced elite NSW rugby clubs who have previously won this event. Our sponsors’ support has allowed the NSW public to get a glimpse at what future and more experienced Filipino-heritage rugby team can do in this tournament.



PRFU FEATURED PLAYER

Name: Rafael Zappia

Nickname: ZILLA

Age: 21

Date of Birth: 16/02/1987

Current City: Riverwood, Sydney, Australia

Heritage: Filipino-Italian

Team: Riverwood Legion Rugby Football Club, Parramatta Two Blues Rugby

Position Played: Lock, Flanker, Second Row

Rugby Hero: John Eales because he was a forward who goal kicked.

Interesting Skill: I'm multi-handed which means I can do anything with both hands and feet.

Why RUGBY? : They call rugby the gentlemen's game and the ladies call me a gentleman.

Rugby was meant to be.



When **Rafael** was 8 his school friends' parents pressured his mum for him to play rugby league for the local junior team. As she was over protective the only condition was that he wears every possible means of protection. Just imagine one of the biggest players having to wear headgears mouth guards and shoulder pads. This lead to Rafael representing the St George junior's squads.

Going to a Selective Sports High School, rugby came into the picture when the team needed forwards; his brother Rupert was also playing which also meant that they got to go home early after every match.

As a half Filipino-half Italian he is proud to represent the P.R.F.U giving him the opportunity to reach out and get in touch with his inner Filo. Like the saying 50% Pinoy-100% PROUD.

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The advertisement for Joblane International Manpower Services features a blue background with a grid pattern. On the left, there is a large, faint watermark of the Philippine International Manpower Services logo, which includes a shield with a deer and the text "PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES". The main text is in red and white. At the bottom left, there is a collage of small images showing various workers in different settings, including construction sites and industrial environments. At the bottom right, there is the PRFU logo and contact information.

Upcoming Events:

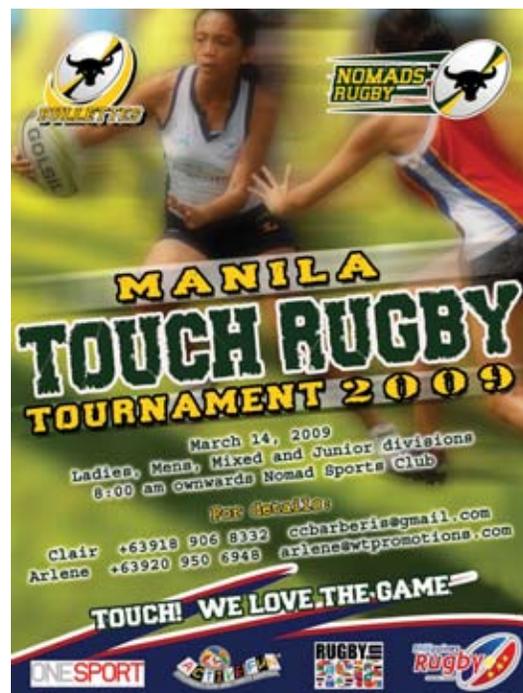
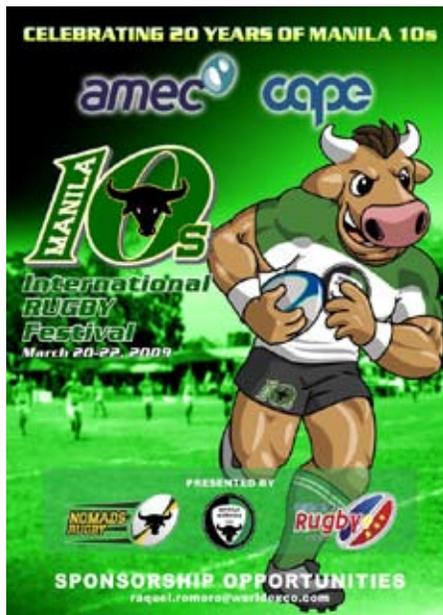
Manila Touch Rugby Tournament
@ Nomads
March 14, 2009

Manila 10's Rugby Lunch
@ Renaissance Hotel
March 20, 2009

Manila 10's Rugby Tournament
@ Nomads
March 20-21, 2009

Manila South Tri- Series
@ Adventist University
April 2, 2009

Cebu 10's
@ Aboitiz Field, Cebu
April 25, 2009



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