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PILGRIMAGE - RETURN TO RUGBY SOURCES

The «Justin Bridou» U18 European Championship had only been completed when the Women's European Trophy in La Corona would see the title holder Spain challenge England, runner-up in last year's WRWC! This is the cycle of FIRA-AER events that have reached new heights with EUROSPORT broadcasts, a 6 Nations Committee meeting as well as an FFR Board meeting in Armagnac Bigorre.

This French region is a real Rugby heartland and experienced a pilgrimage and a return to the sources. Pilgrimage - there is no other word to describe the reception in the Lourdes Town Hall with the participation of "Rugby Legends" Soro, Prat, Crauste, Garuet, Bertranne, Dintrans, etc. Return to the sources - for all these young players coming from various European horizons and discovering the Rugby fundamental values so early in their careers. Legendary venues where everyone breathes and lives for the Game, where there are clubs at every crossroad, and such a warm welcome was offered. Congratulations and many thanks to Tony MARIN, leader of the Organising Committee and to his 150 collaborators and their 100% commitment. Congratulations and many thanks to all the high level technicians who came, on a voluntary basis, to offer their contribution. Congratulations and many thanks to Ireland, the winner of a marvellous competition for its quality (playing level and enthusiasm), spirit (full respect for everyone, not even one red card), its serenity (absolute security, no serious injury). An overall progress was obvious for both the top teams and the junior nations in a perfect atmosphere of friendship. And this event was effectively recognised by the 6 Nations Committee, via an exceptional grant of €15,000, and attended by the Chairman of the International Rugby Board: Bernard Lapasset.

In conclusion: it was a great success, as shown by the media coverage, which will boost the development of our events. It was therefore symbolic that a new Shield, a piece of art entirely conceived and made by the young pupils of the Arts College of Revel, to remain in line with the philosophy of the event. This event is to be officially recognised at the next 6 Nations meeting and ratified by our Executive Committee which will meet in Paris to finalise our Summer General Assembly, during which our progress will be confirmed.

HENRI GATINEAU



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Ireland, U18 European champion



In Tarbes, Ireland defeated England (17-8) in the final of the U18 "Justin Bridou" European championships and won the trophy for the first time.

For the third place, Wales won over France (6-15).

In front of more than 5000 spectators and in live on Eurosport 2, Ireland lifted the "Justin Bridou" shield for the first time. At the end of a very pleasant and committed match, competed with a remarkable spirit, the Irish team achieved victory by causing faults in the opposing team. Ireland was able to take advantage of the excellent vision of the game of its scrum half and captain, Luke Mc Grath.

Since the Irish team had total control during the game, England was not able to do as good as it did in the semi-finals, last sunday. It simply saved face at the end of the game by scoring a try but wasn't in a position at any point to take advantage.

For the third place, Wales logically won versus the French team who lacked inspiration (6-15). In spite of the score at the end of the match (15-13), the French team did not manage to catch up with the score of the Welsh team.

U18 - Legacy programme



Before the Group C matches in Vic Fezenac between Bulgaria and Denmark & Hungary and Luxembourg, nearly 200 children from local schools participated in one of the many Legacy projects to be organised as part of the Tournament

The children participated in some competitive skills sessions and played some small sided matches whilst the national teams warmed up. Classes from the schools adopted the nations and supported them during the matches. This will hopefully assist the clubs in promoting and profiling the game of Rugby in order to increase participation of children and youth.

U18 - Legacy programme in U18 Tournament



On the 21st April during the U18 Championship the team of Switzerland participated in one of many legacy projects organised.

The team played some games with the rugby school of Laloubère and exchanged cultural experiences. This was one example of many legacy activities that all 28 participating teams were involved in.

2011-13 Women's European Trophy

The Women European Trophy is taking place in La Coruna, Spain (30 April to 8 may).



