

## TOULOUSE NOTES

- Toulouse becomes the fourth different venue to host the HSBC France Sevens after Clermont-Ferrand, Paris and Biarritz.
  - USA won their first Cup title the last time the Women's Series was played on French soil, in Biarritz in 2019.
  - The Women's Eagles Sevens have never successfully defended a Cup title at the same location, with all three victories coming at different venues.
- Australia have already won the 2022 HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series title, and will be chasing their first Cup title on French soil after finishing second twice in Clermont-Ferrand and once in Paris.
  - This is the only active location on the Women's Series where they have never won a Cup title.
- New Zealand hold the record for most tries in a single Women's Series event in France, scoring 32 in Paris in 2018.
- There were 205 tries scored in Biarritz in 2019, the most in a single tournament at the Women's Sevens Series event in France.
  - The highest scoring event this season has been Langford with 210 tries.
- New Zealand's **Portia Woodman** holds the record for most tries scored in a single Women's Series tournament in France, scoring 10 in Clermont-Ferrand in 2016.
- Canada's **Ghislaine Landry** and Australia's **Chloe Dalton** share the record for the most points scored in France with 54 in 2016.
- France will be looking to win their first title on home soil. Three teams in Women's Series history have achieved this, with Australia winning in Sydney in 2018, USA in Glendale and New Zealand in Hamilton in 2020.
  - The last team to medal at their home event is Australia when they claimed bronze in Sydney in 2020.
- Seven of the eight teams competing 2022 Commonwealth Games are playing this weekend, with defending medalists New Zealand, Australia and England joined by Canada, Fiji, Scotland, and South Africa in Birmingham in July.
- There have been 858 tries scored this season, 26 more than after five events on the 2020 Series. However this total is still 339 tries behind the all-time season record of 1197 set after six events on the 2019 Series.

### Past champions in France

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL	MARGIN
2019	Biarritz	USA	New Zealand (26-10)	16
2018	Paris	New Zealand	Australia (33-7)	26
2016-17	Clermont-Ferrand	New Zealand	Australia (22-7)	15
2015-16	Clermont-Ferrand	Canada	Australia (29-19)	10

## KEY TEAM STATS

- **Australia** are the only team to have medalled at all five events this season, with gold at both events in Dubai, Seville and Langford, and bronze in Málaga. They are looking to become just the second team after New Zealand in 2016-17 to win five Cup titles in the same season.
  - Australia's defence is conceding on average the least tries per tournament of any team with 7.4. They have only conceded more than 10 tries in a single tournament once this season, with 11 in Málaga.
    - They have been the busiest of any team, averaging a competition-high 16.9 tackles per game this season, and xsenjoying the best completion-rate of 81.1 per cent.
    - They have held their opposition to one try or less in 19 of their 28 games this season, and have only conceded 20 points or more on two occasions, against France in the pool stages in Dubai, and against Russia in the Cup semi-final in Málaga.
    - Three of their six tries conceded in Langford came against New Zealand in the Cup final.
  - Australia have been the leading try-scoring team at four of the five events this season, including a season-best 34 tries in Langford, one short of their all-time record of 35 set in Sydney in 2018.
    - Seventy-one per cent of their tries scored in Langford were directly assisted by a team-mate, the highest ratio of any side.
  - Australia are averaging the joint-most linebreaks per game of any team this season with five alongside New Zealand.
  - They have come from behind at half-time to win in each of the past two Cup Finals, overturning a seven-point deficit against Ireland to win in Seville, and a three-point deficit against New Zealand in Langford.
  - Australia will play South Africa for the first time since Dubai on the 2016-17 Series. They have won all four previous meetings by an average margin of 24 points, restricting them to just one try or less in their past three matches.
  - Australia will meet Fiji for the first time since their Cup final victories in Dubai at the start of the season. They have never lost to Fiji on the Women's Series with 25 victories and a draw. Their only loss came at Tokyo 2020.
  - After winning just one of their four Series matches against USA on the 2019 Series, Australia have dominated this fixture since the start of 2020, winning four of the past six.
    - Australia recorded their largest victory against USA in Series history this season with a 45-5 win in Dubai, however their last meeting in Seville was a much closer contest, with Australia narrowly winning 21-19.

- **Brazil** finished ninth in Langford, the third time this season they have placed inside the top ten. Currently 10th on the Series standings, they are in a relegation battle just four points below Spain in ninth.
  - They return to France for the first time since 2016-17 in Clermont Ferrand, their only previous HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series event in this country. They won two of five games played that year, with victories against Russia in the pool stages and England in the 11th-place play-off.
  - They are currently on a three-game winning streak following Langford. They have never won four-straight Women's Series games.
  - They have found their try-scoring form at the back end of the season, averaging 17.5 tries per event since Seville compared to 10 tries at each for their first three tournaments.
    - They scored 19 tries in Langford, their most at a single event in Series history. They scored in 86 per cent of visits to the opposition-22, their best efficiency of the season since the opening round in Dubai (86 per cent), while their strike-rate of one try every two visits was the third-best of any team.
    - They made 20 linebreaks, their most in a single tournament this season.
  - They have only won one Series match against France, in Dubai on the 2014-14 Series, 16 games ago. This will be the fourth time they have played each other this season, with a five-point loss in Dubai their narrowest in this fixture.
  - They will be looking to end a nine-game losing streak against Ireland dating back to Kitakyushu in 2017.
    - Both losses this season have been by exactly 17 points, in the pool rounds in Seville and Langford.
  - Brazil ended a three-game losing streak against England in their last meeting in Langford with a 24-7 victory in the ninth-place play-off, their largest margin against them in Series history. In their 17th meeting, Brazil will be looking to go back-to-back for the first time.
- **Canada** produced their best result of the season finishing fifth in Langford. They have medalled at every Women's Series event in France, winning the inaugural Cup title in Clermont-Ferrand in 2016, and bronze at each of the past three events.
  - They have not medalled since Sydney in 2020, winning silver. In the final event of the 2022 Series, they will be looking to avoid recording their first season without a top-three finish in their history.
  - Canada scored 17 tries in Langford, their highest total at an event this season. Their try-scoring rate has improved, averaging 16 per tournament since Seville compared to 10 across the first three events.
  - Their defence showed significant improvement in Langford, completing 72 per cent of their tackles, an increase from 66 per cent in Seville, while conceding just 16 tries, their lowest at a tournament this season.
    - They made a tournament-high eight steals from opposition possession.

- Their attack also showed improvement in Langford. After averaging a competition-high 25.1 carries, but the second fewest linebreaks (2.2) per game coming into this event, they averaged fewer carries (22.8) but more linebreaks (3.8) across their six matches played.
- After suffering a two-point loss against Spain in the second round in Dubai, Canada have won the past two meetings by more than converted try, with a 16-point victory in Seville, and nine-point win in Langford.
- Canada will play Scotland for the first time across any Series, Commonwealth Games, Series Qualifier or Rugby World Cup Sevens event.
- Canada will be looking to end a 15-game losing streak against the Black Ferns Sevens dating back to Clermont-Ferrand in 2016.
  - They rarely play each other in the pool rounds, with just three of their previous 24 previous Series matches coming in the round-robin stages. This will be the first time since Sydney in 2017 they have been drawn together in the same pool.
  - New Zealand won their only meeting this season 38-0, recording their largest winning margin in Series history in this fixture.
- **England** will look to bounce back from a 10th-place finish in Langford, their lowest result since Biarritz in 2019. Their only victory came against Japan, with three of their four losses by 17 or more points.
  - England will look to improve their try-scoring rate, crossing just 11 times in Langford, their lowest total of the season, with just two of these 11 tries directly assisted by a team-mate, the second-lowest ratio of any team after Mexico.
  - England have only reached the Cup quarter-finals in France twice, in Clermont-Ferrand in 2016, and Paris in 2018, and have never medalled here.
  - England have not topped their pool in France since 2016.
  - They will look to improve their defence after conceding 21 tries in Langford, the fourth-most of any team, and completing just 71 per cent of their tackles, the third-lowest.
  - They will look to spend more time with ball in hand after making the second-fewest carries (90) and passes (123), and equal-third fewest linebreaks (15) of any team in Langford.
  - After winning 10 of their first 11 games against Ireland, England have lost both matches this season by a combined score-line of 67-7, including their last meeting in the Cup semi-final in Seville 29-0 in their biggest loss in the history of this fixture.
  - England ended a three-game losing streak against France with a 21-12 victory in their last meeting in the Cup quarter-finals in Seville. They will be chasing back-to-back victories in this fixture for the first time since winning three-straight between Langford in 2015 and Dubai on the 2015-16 Series.



- After winning silver in the opening two events this season, **Fiji** finished seventh in Langford and now sit sixth overall on the Series standings, nine points outside the top five. Their best end of season placing was fourth in 2017.
  - They have reached the Cup quarter-finals at the HSBC France Sevens in three of the past four events.
  - In their first tournament back since Dubai, they won two of their six matches in Langford, with two of their three losses by a converted try or less, and a draw against New Zealand.
  - They scored 20 tries in Langford, their most at a single Women's Series event since Kitakyushu in 2017, 22 tournaments ago.
  - They made a tournament-high 43 offloads in Langford, the most by any core team at a single event this season.
  - They have been the most accurate team in front of goal this season, kicking 72 per cent of their conversion attempts, including a tournament-high 70 per cent in Langford.
  - Fiji's defence was tested in Langford, averaging the second-most tackles (14.7) and most missed tackles (5.5) per game of any team. However they showed discipline, conceding the second-fewest penalties of any team (16).
  - Fiji came within one point of defeating the Women's Eagles Sevens in Langford after winning both games earlier this season in Dubai.
    - These two teams regularly meet on French soil with this match the fifth time in Series history and becoming their most common location.
  - Fiji have been held to one try or less in their past five, and eight of their past 10 loss against Australia since the start of the 2018 Series.
    - They have not come within a converted try or less against Australia on the Women's Series since their last meeting in France, a three-point loss in the Cup quarter-final in Paris in 2018.
- After winning bronze across both legs in Dubai, **France** have failed to medal in each of their past three events. Their best end of season placing was third in 2018.
  - France are chasing their first Series medal on home soil. The closest they came was the bronze final in Clermont-Ferrand in 2017, losing to Canada.
    - They have reached the Cup semi-finals in four of their five events this season, but lost the bronze final in Málaga and Langford.
  - They have scored the second-most tries of any team this season with 113, averaging 22.6 per tournament, their highest in Series history.
    - Their best try-scoring effort on home soil came in Paris in 2018, scoring 23 tries, the second-most of any team at that event.
  - Sixty-one per cent of their tries scored in Langford were directly assisted by a team-mate, the third-highest ratio of any team, and their highest of the season.

- They continue to average the most offloads per game of any team this season with 6.3. Their 37 offloads in Langford were the second-most of any team behind Fiji.
- France are currently enjoying an 18-game Women's Series winning streak against Brazil dating back to Amsterdam in 2014.
  - After racing out to a 19-0 lead in their last meeting in Langford, Brazil fought back with two tries in the final 90 seconds to bring the final margin to within nine points at full-time.
- France will host England on home soil for just the second time in their 19th Series meeting, and the first since Paris in 2018.
  - Despite the overall ledger reading nine wins apiece, France have dominated this fixture in recent times, winning five of the past seven since the start of the 2019 Series.
- This will be the fifth time France have met Ireland this season, with Ireland recording their first Series victory in this fixture in their last meeting in the bronze final in Langford.
  - This will be the first time they have met on French soil since Clermont-Ferrand in 2016, in what was just their third Series meeting at the time.
- **Ireland** have now medalled at back-to-back events for the first time after winning silver in Seville and bronze in Langford. They played their first 36 events on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series without winning a Cup medal.
  - They have scored 90 tries this season, the third-most of any team at an average of 18 per event. This is more than double their average from the 2020 Series (7.4) and are one try away from setting a new Irish season record after also scoring 90 tries on the 2019 Series.
    - Their attack has shown remarkable improvement across the past two events, averaging 23.5 linebreaks and 21 tries per event since Seville, compared to 16 linebreaks and 16 tries per tournament between Dubai and Málaga. This is more impressive when their average carries per event have only increased by two per tournament between each period.
  - They have never scored more than 11 tries at a single HSBC France event.
  - They have only played a Cup quarter-final in France, losing to Canada in Clermont-Ferrand in 2017.
    - They have lost their past five pool games on French soil, and were held to 10 points or less in all three games on day one in Biarritz.
  - Fifty-four per cent of Ireland's tries this season have been directly assisted by a team-mate, the highest percentage of any team who has played all five events.
  - They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal after kicking just 37 per cent of their conversion attempts in Langford, the lowest success rate of any team after Mexico.

- Ireland have been drawn in the same pool as England for the first time since Cape Town on the 2020 Series. They have won both games this season, the fifth-place semi-final in Málaga and Cup semi-final in Seville, and are chasing three-straight wins in this fixture for the first time.
- Ireland are currently enjoying a nine-game winning streak against Brazil, their longest active streak against any team on the Women's Series.
  - They have started strong in both games this season, scoring 17 first-half points against them in Seville and 19 points in Langford.
- They ended an 18-game losing streak against France in the bronze final in Langford scoring their most points (22) in the history of this fixture.
- **New Zealand** marked their return to the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series with a silver medal in Langford, continuing their streak of medalling in each of their past eight events played.
  - The last event where they failed to win a medal of any colour was Kitakyushu in 2019, one of just three played since 2016 where they have not stood on the podium.
  - They have been the top try-scoring team at each of the past two HSBC France Sevens events in Paris in 2018 and Biarritz in 2019.
  - They have only ever lost two games on French soil, against Australia in the Cup semi-final in Clermont-Ferrand in 2016 and against USA in the Cup final in Biarritz in 2019.
  - They conceded just seven tries in Langford, including three in the Cup final.
    - They held their opposition scoreless in the first-half in four of their six matches, with the second-best tackle completion rate of any team at 81 per cent behind Australia.
    - They have never conceded more than nine tries at a single event in France.
  - They made the most carries (145) and second-most linebreaks (30) of any team in Langford.
  - Seventeen of their 26 tries scored in Langford were directly assisted by a team-mate, the second highest ratio (65 per cent) of any team.
  - They retained a tournament-high 19 per cent of their restarts in Langford.
  - They have won 35 of their combined 37 games against all three Pool B opponents Canada, Spain and Scotland with their only losses coming in 2015 against Spain in London and against Canada in 2016 in São Paulo.
- **Scotland** will play on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series for the first time in nearly three years after their debut appearance in Biarritz on the 2019 Series.
  - They were undefeated in two of their five games in Biarritz, with a 24-24 draw against England in the pool stages, and a 26-14 victory against Ireland in the 11th-place play-off.

- They narrowly missed out on qualification for the 2020 Series as a core team after losing the 2019 World Rugby Women's Sevens Series Qualifier final against Brazil in Hong Kong.
  - They will also make their Commonwealth Games debut later this year in Birmingham, qualifying for the first time.
  - The only opponent in Pool B they have played before is New Zealand, losing 44-7 in their first ever match on the Women's Series in Biarritz. They have six survivors in their current squad from that match.
    - Rhona Lloyd scored their only try of the game.
  - They have two players in their squad who represented Great Britain this season in Dubai, with Shona Campbell and captain Lisa Thomson.
- **South Africa** return as the invitational team for the first time since Cape Town on the 2020 Series. This will be their 14th event overall, and first in Europe since 2015 in Amsterdam.
    - They will be chasing their first Series victory since December 2017 against Fiji in Dubai after losing all four games in Cape Town in their last tournament appearance.
    - They have qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, their second appearance after 2018 on the Gold Coast, and will play their fourth RWC Sevens later this year as host nation.
    - They have tasted victory against two of their three Pool A opponents on the Women's Series before, defeating Fiji 17-14 in Dubai on the 2018 Series, and 26-7 against the USA in Dubai on the 2016-17 Series.
  - **Spain** were Cup semi-finalists at the last HSBC France Sevens, finishing fourth in Biarritz in 2019. This is one of only three Cup semi-finals they have played in their history, and their only one in Europe.
    - Spain enjoyed plenty of possession in Langford, making the second-most carries (141), fifth-most passes (131) of any team. However, they struggled to break through the opposition line, making the second-fewest linebreaks (14) of any team after Mexico.
      - They scored 13 tries in Langford, their most at an event this season, from 18 visits to the opposition-22, recording their highest success-rate (72 per cent) in this zone since the opening round in Dubai (85 per cent).
    - They will look to improve their discipline after conceding the most penalties of any team in Langford with 33 and earning the most yellow cards with three.
    - Spain have averaged more offloads per tournament across their past three events (22.3), than the first two rounds in Dubai (13).
    - After winning their first meeting against Canada this season, they have lost their past two matches. They have never recorded more than one win in a single season against Canada, with their previous two victories coming on the 2013-14 Series and 2020 Series.



- This will be the first time Spain has played New Zealand since the Cup quarter-finals in Langford in 2019. They have been held to one try or less in each of their past six losses against the Black Ferns Sevens.
- After winning 11 of their first 15 games this season (73 per cent) between Dubai and Málaga, **USA** have slumped to just seven wins across their past 12 games (58 per cent) since Seville.
  - Two of their three Cup titles have come on European soil, in Biarritz in 2019 and this season in Málaga.
  - They are currently on an eight-game winning streak in France dating back to Paris in 2018.
  - They will look to improve their efficiency inside the opposition-22, after converting just 68 per cent of their visits into tries in Langford, the second-lowest percentage of any team after Mexico.
  - They conceded the fifth-most tries of any team in Langford with 18, the same as their total from Málaga and Seville combined, and their most at a single event since Glendale on the 2019 Series (19 tries), 16 tournaments ago.
  - They are averaging the least offloads per game of any team with 2.4, including the fewest of any team at a single event this season with just seven in total in Langford.
  - Just one point separated USA and Fiji in Langford at full-time, despite the Women's Eagles Sevens racing out to a 15-0 lead at half-time. All four of their tries scored that day were unconverted, with Fiji outscoring the USA 19-5 in the second-half.
  - USA will play South Africa for the first time since Dubai on the 2018 Series. Nicole Heavirland is the only survivor from the team that won 19-15.
  - USA will be looking to end a four-game losing streak against Australia dating back to Cape Town on the 2020 Series. Three of these four losses have been narrow, by a converted try or less.
    - After losing their first meeting this season 45-5 in Dubai, USA pushed Australia in the Cup semi-final in Seville to get within two points at full-time. Nicole Heavirland missed Naya Tapper's try in the final minute to send the game into extra-time.

## KEY PLAYER STATS

- In the 48th Series tournament to be played since 2012, there are three players who will play their 40th career event, with Australia's **Sharni Williams**, Black Ferns Sevens captain **Sarah Hirini**, and Canada's all-time leading try-scorer **Bianca Farella** all reaching this milestone.
- **Charlotte Caslick** continues to lead the DHL Impact Player standings with the most offloads (31), second-most carries (130) and tackles (76), and third-most linebreaks (20) of any player this season.
  - She has made the most try assists of any player this season (22), and her combination with Faith Nathan has resulted in a team-high six tries.
- **Faith Nathan** and **Maddison Levi** have scored the most try doubles of any player this season with six each.
- **Reapi Ulunisau** became the first Fijian to be named DHL Impact Player at a Women's Series event after making the equal-most offloads (nine), equal-second most linebreaks (eight) and equal-third most carries (25) of any player in Langford.
- **Ana Maria Naimasi** requires two more tries to become only the second Fijian to score 50 on the Women's Series.
- France's **Jade Ulutule** is the top point-scorer this season, and requires one more try to become the fifth player to score 50 on the Women's Series.
  - She has been the most accurate kicker in front of goal by players who have made more than 10 attempts, converting 77 per cent of her shots.
  - She is looking to become the first French player to finish the season as the leading point scorer in Series history.
- Ireland's **Amee Leigh Murphy Crowe** become just the second player in Series history after Portia Woodman to score 12 or more tries at a single Series event.
  - She scored 63 per cent of Ireland's total tries in Langford.
  - She became the first Irish woman to score four tries in a single game.
  - Six of her 32 tries this season (19 per cent) have been directly assisted by Lucy Mulhall.
  - She is four tries away from breaking her own Irish record for most tries in a season, scoring 35 on the 2019 Series.
- Ireland's **Erin King** has made the most steals of any player this season with six.
- **Niall Williams** returns to the Series for the first time since Sydney in 2020. Her last try came in the Black Ferns Sevens Cup final victory against Canada.
- Scotland's **Rhona Lloyd** was their leading try-scorer in Biarritz in 2019 with six, scoring at least one in every game played.
- **Lea Ducher** is Spain's top try scorer in 2022 with 10, and requires three more tries to break Lide Erbina's season record of 12 scored on the 2019 Series.
- South Africa have five survivors in their squad from their last appearance in Cape Town. **Liske Lategan** was their top try-scorer at that event with two.