# WORLD RUGBY HSBC SEVENS SERIES

# **HSBC WORLD RUGBY WOMEN'S SEVENS SERIES 2023**

# **TOULOUSE NOTES**

- ➤ Toulouse is the fourth different venue to host the HSBC France Sevens after Clermont-Ferrand, Paris and Biarritz. It made its debut on the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series last season, with New Zealand winning their third Cup title on French soil.
- ➤ The 2023 Women's Series title is still on the line coming into the final event of the season. At this stage last year, Australia had already been crowned champions.
  - ➤ Not since Biarritz in 2019 has the Series winner been decided at the final event of the season. New Zealand need to reach the Cup quarter-finals to secure their seventh title in what is the 10th season of the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series.
- ➤ The 2023 Series in on track to become the highest try-scoring season in Women's Series history, requiring only 17 tries to surpass the previous record of 1,197 tries scored in 2019 when six events were played.
  - ➤ The highest scoring Women's Series event this season has been Hong Kong with 207 tries.
  - ➤ There has been an average of 194 tries scored per event on the Women's Series at the HSBC France Sevens, with Biarritz in 2019 the highest scoring event with 205 tries.
- There is one automatic Olympic qualification place remaining for Paris 2024, with New Zealand, Australia and the United States joining hosts France next year.
  - ➤ Ireland, Fiji and Great Britain are in a three-way race for the final spot with just four series points separating them on the Series standings.
- 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 and 2023.
- ➤ New Zealand hold the record for most tries in a single Women's Series event in France, scoring 32 in Paris in 2018.
- ➤ **Joanna Grisez** set a new try and point-scoring record for a Women's Series event in France last season with 11 tries and 55 points at her home tournament.
- ➤ South Africa have been promoted to the 2024 Women's Series after winning the 2023 Challenger Series in South Africa, and will replace the 11th ranked core team at the conclusion of this event.
  - ➤ The last time they played a full season on the Women's Series was 2014-15, and have made just five invitational appearances since then.

#### Past champions in France

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL	MARGIN
2022	Toulouse	New Zealand	Australia (21-14)	7
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



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# **KEY TEAM STATS**

- ➤ Australia have never won a Cup title in France, finishing runner-up on four previous occasions. This one of three locations in Women's Series history where they have played a Cup final but never won they lost one Cup final in Guangzhou in 2013-14, and two Cup finals in Amsterdam in 2014 and 2015.
  - Australia have won 31 of their 36 games played this season. Their five losses have come against New Zealand (three times), USA and France.
    - > Three of these five defeats have been narrow, by seven or less points.
  - They were the top try-scoring team this season at each of the first two events in Dubai (32) and Cape Town (32) but have been overtaken by New Zealand in Hamilton (37), Sydney (35), Vancouver (32) and Hong Kong (39).
    - > They were the top try-scoring team in Toulouse last season with 30.
    - > Sixty-four per cent of their tries this season have originated from unstructured play, including a competition-high 24 per cent from steals.
  - ➤ They enjoy the joint-best carry per line-break ratio of any team this season, averaging one line-break every 4.3 carries alongside New Zealand.
  - ➤ They enjoy the highest percentage of assists per try of any team this season with 58 per cent. Eighty-three per cent of their try assists have come via passes.
  - ➤ They will look to improve their discipline after conceding the second-most penalties of any team (22) last round in Hong Kong. Between Dubai and Hamilton they were conceding on average 16 penalties per tournament, however since Sydney this has crept up to 22.3 per event.
  - ➤ Their defence conceded 10 tries in Hong Kong, their most in a tournament since the opening round in Dubai (10 tries).
    - Only New Zealand, Ireland, Fiji and Japan have scored 14 points or more against them this season.
  - > Australia have won all 17 Women's Series matches against Brazil, with their 43-5 victory last round their joint-third highest winning margin in this fixture.
    - ➤ In their 18th Women's Series meeting overall, this will be the first time they have played each other at the HSBC France Sevens.
  - Australia are currently enjoying a 25-game winning streak against Ireland on the Women's Series, including all five games this season by an average margin of 21 points. They met in the Cup semi-finals in Toulouse last season.
    - ➤ They have held Ireland scoreless in a single half in three of their five victories this season.
  - ➤ They have won three of their four Women's Series matches against France this season, restricting them to 10 points or less in all four games.
- Brazil remains unmoved in 11th on the Women's Series standings after finishing 10th or lower at each of the past four events.
  - Their best result this season has been ninth in Cape Town.





- They sit nine points adrift of Spain in the battle to avoid relegation. They have only earned one more competition point than Spain twice this season, in Cape Town and Sydney.
  - ➤ Their best placing ahead of Spain happened in Dubai on the 2022 Series, earning seven more competition points following a sixth-place result.
  - ➤ They finished eighth in Toulouse last year, three places above Spain.
- ➤ They will look to improve their try-scoring rate after averaging just 6.5 tries per event since Vancouver, half of their season average of 13 per event between Dubai and Sydney.
  - ➤ They have scored 28 of their 65 tries this season from the quick-tap, the highest ratio of any team this season at 43 per cent.
  - ➤ They have made the second-fewest visits to the opposition 22 this season of any core team with 82, including the least of any team last round with just seven in Hong Kong.
- ➤ They have averaged a line-break per carry ratio of 8.0 this season, the sixthbest of any team, but struggled last round in Hong Kong averaging one linebreak every 14 carries, the second-highest ratio of any team.
- ➤ Their defence has conceded a season-high 121 tries, including the most of any team last round with 26 in Hong Kong.
  - ➤ This was also an issue for them in Toulouse last season, conceding 26 tries, their second-most at a single tournament in 2022.
- ➤ Brazil are still chasing their first Women's Series victory against Australia in their 18th meeting.
  - They will look to improve their defence after missing eight tackles in their last meeting in Hong Kong, completing just 57 per cent of attempts.
- ➤ Brazil will look to end an 18-game losing streak against France, with their only victory coming in Dubai on the 2013-14 Series.
  - > This will be the first time they have met this season since the opening round in Dubai.
  - ➤ They played each other twice in Toulouse last season, with Brazil held to just one try in both losses, outscored 60-14 combined.
- ➤ Brazil will look to end a 14-game Women's Series losing streak against Ireland dating back to Kitakyushu in 2017.
  - ➤ They have been held scoreless in at least one half of rugby against Ireland in all four games this season, in the second-half in Hamilton and the first-half in Sydney and Vancouver, and the entire game in Hong Kong.
- ➤ Canada have earned more Series points between Vancouver and Hong Kong (20), than across the opening four rounds combined (16). They have finished sixth or higher at back-to-back events for the first time since Langford and Toulouse last season.
  - ➤ They are two wins away from becoming on the third team in Women's Series history to record 200 victories, after New Zealand and Australia.





- ➤ Despite conceding 22 tries in Hong Kong, their second-most in a tournament this season after Cape Town (24 tries), they held the opposition to seven points or less in three of their six games. New Zealand and France were responsible for 19 of the 22 tries overall they conceded.
- ➤ They have scored 42 per cent of their tries this season from quick-tap possession, the joint-second highest ratio of any team after Brazil.
- ➤ They enjoy the third-highest ratio try assists of any team with 53 per cent, with 14 different players all contributing via the pass or offload.
  - Only New Zealand (17) and France (15) have had more individual players make a try assist this season.
  - ➤ However, only two of their 10 tries scored in Hong Kong were assisted by a team-mate, their lowest ratio at a tournament this season.
- Canada have made the third-fewest entries into the opposition 22 of any core team this season with 96, but when they do enter this zone they are the fourthmost efficient team at scoring, enjoying an 80 per cent success-rate.
- Canada ended a four-game losing streak against USA last round with a 12-7 victory in the fifth-place semi-final in Hong Kong.
  - ➤ Their past three, and four of their five meetings this season have all been close contests, decided by five points or less.
  - ➤ They have not scored more than two tries in a Women's Series game against their North American rivals since Toulouse last season (19-7).
- They shared the spoils evenly against Poland in Málaga last season with a 17-14 loss in the pool rounds before winning their fifth-place semi-final 26-7.
- ➤ They will be looking to end a 20-game Women's Series losing streak against New Zealand dating back to Clermont-Ferrand in 2016.
  - > They have been held to one try or less in eight of their past nine losses since Cape Town on the 2020 Series.
  - ➤ They have lost all four previous meetings in France, with two of these four defeats coming in the Cup semi-finals in Paris and Biarritz. They were held scoreless in their pool meeting in Toulouse last season (17-0), the only time they have ever been held to nil in any game in France.
- After medalling three of their four Women's Series events last season, **Fiji** are still chasing their first podium this season. They finished fourth in Hong Kong, their best result in 2023, and have not medalled at any Series event since winning bronze in Toulouse last season.
  - ➤ They have not topped their pool at any Series event since Dubai last season and have never achieved this at the HSBC France Sevens.
  - ➤ They scored 26 tries in Toulouse last season, their highest try total at a single event in their history.
  - ➤ They have scored the second-highest ratio of tries from the restart of any core team this season with 31 per cent. Only the USA have a higher percentage (32) from this possession source.
    - ➤ However, set-piece was their main source last round at 34 per cent.





- ➤ Only 37 per cent of their tries this season have been directly assisted by a team-mate, the second-lowest ratio of any core team, however last round 11 of their 17 tries scored were assisted at 64 per cent, the highest ratio of any team.
- They are averaging the most offloads per game of any team this season with 8.3, nearly three more than the second ranked team France with 5.5.
  - > Seven of their 11 try assists in Hong Kong came via the offload.
  - ➤ They have made the most offloads of any team at every event since Cape Town, including 60 or more at two of the past three since Sydney.
- ➤ They are the third-most efficient core team inside the opposition 22 this season, converting 84 per cent of their visits into tries.
  - ➤ Their strike-rate of one try every 1.5 rucks is the second-best this season.
- ➤ They are the most ill-disciplined core team this season averaging 3.8 penalties per game and have earned the most total yellow cards with 15.
  - ➤ They conceded a tournament-high 31 penalties last round, the most by any team at a single event this season.
- ➤ In the race for automatic qualification for Paris, they are in a three-way battle with Great Britain and Ireland for the final place, with just four series points separating them.
- Fiji have led Spain at half-time in both games this season in Dubai, but won just once, 26-5 in the fifth-place semi-final. This will be the first time they have met in France since 2017 in Clermont-Ferrand.
- ➤ Fiji have outscored Japan 73-21 overall this season across two meetings in Dubai and Sydney. This will be the first time in Women's Series history they have met three times in a single season.
- ➤ Fiji enjoys a two-point lead ahead of Great Britain on the Women's Series standings, but has only won two of eight games against them this season with a 19-14 win in Hamilton and 28-19 victory in Vancouver.
  - ➤ The team who is ahead at half-time has only won five of eight games this season, with Fiji surrendering a lead at the break in Sydney and Vancouver after coming back to win when trailing in Hamilton.
- France have played for a medal in three of the six rounds this season, but have stood on the podium just once with silver in Sydney. They lost both bronze finals in Dubai and Vancouver against USA.
  - ➤ They have never won a medal on home soil, losing the bronze final in 2017 and 2018. They have reached the Cup quarter-finals in all five previous events at home, but have converted just two of these games into Cup semi-finals.
  - ➤ They have only topped their pool twice this season, in Cape Town and Hong Kong. Last season they achieved this in each of the last four events.
    - They have topped their pool at two of their last three events at home.
  - ➤ They have been the second-most ill-disciplined core team this season, conceding 3.6 penalties per game behind Fiji (3.8).





- ➤ They scored 24 tries in Hong Kong, their highest tournament total of the season. They were just one of two teams to use all five scoring sources, including the second-most tries from kicks with two.
  - ➤ They made 29 visits into the opposition 22, their most at an event this season, converting 83 per cent of them into tries, the fourth-highest ratio.
- ➤ The quick tap has been their main scoring source this season, with 41 per cent of their tries originating from this possession, the fourth-highest of any team.
  - ➤ However, they have also been one of the most dangerous teams from turnover possession, with the second-highest ratio of any team from tries scored from steals at 22 per cent.
- After losing their first two meetings this season against Ireland, France have bounced back to win the past two in Vancouver and Hong Kong.
  - ➤ This will be the first time they have met in the pool rounds of any event since Toulouse last year with all four games in 2023 Cup or placing fixtures.
  - They have not led Ireland at half-time in any game this season, level or behind at the break across all four meetings.
- France have held Brazil to just seven points in each of their past three games dating back to Toulouse last season.
- France are yet to score more than 10 points in a game this season against Australia, but have won one of their four matches, a 10-5 victory in Sydney.
  - They are one of just two teams alongside New Zealand to hold Australia scoreless in the first half this season.
  - They have never beaten Australia on home soil losing all four previous games, with three of these losses by just seven points or less.
- ➤ **Great Britain** won their first medal in Women's Series history last round, with bronze in Hong Kong. Despite scoring their joint-fewest tries in a tournament in their history, their defence won it for them, keeping a clean-sheet in three of six games.
  - They are the only team ranked outside the top four to have medalled this season.
  - Nine of their 12 total tries in Hong Kong were scored across two games, with five tries against Hong Kong China and four tries against Fiji.
    - ➤ Their attack only averaged one line-break every 11.2 carries, with 33 per cent of their tries scored from steals where no defensive line was broken.
    - ➤ They will look to improve their efficiency in the opposition 22 after scoring just 12 tries from 18 entries with the second-lowest success-rate of any team in Hong Kong.
  - ➤ They have earned more Series points across the past three rounds since Sydney (32) than they did across the first three events between Dubai and Hamilton (28).
  - ➤ Their defence completed just 68 per cent of their tackles last round, but conceded the fourth-fewest tries with just 13.





- ➤ Fifty-two per cent of their total points conceded in Hong Kong came against New Zealand in their 43-0 pool loss.
- Great Britain have topped their pool just once in their history, in Sydney.
- ➤ Great Britain have won both games against the Japan this season, and while they have enjoyed a 14-point lead at half-time on each occasion, the full-time score differential has seen Japan fight back in the second-half, with GB winning by just four points in Hamilton and 16 points in Sydney.
- ➤ Great Britain lost their only game this season against Spain 14-10 in Dubai in the seventh-place play-off. Missed conversions proved the difference as Spain kicked 100 per cent of their attempts with GB missing both.
  - In a tightly contested second-half, **Jasmine Joyce** scored the only points in this period as Spain maintained their lead throughout the match.
- ➤ Great Britain have won five of their eight Women's Series games against Fiji this season, including coming back from a half-time deficit to win twice.
  - Four these games this season have been decided by five points or less, with Great Britain winning three of these four tight contests.
- ➤ **Ireland** is currently fifth on the Women's Series standings, and are looking to qualify for the Olympic Games for the first time after they finished third at the 2016 Olympic Repechage, and were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the European qualifying event for Tokyo 2020.
  - ➤ They have earned the least Women's Series points of any of the top seven teams since Sydney with just 26. They have finished eighth at each of the past two events, their lowest placings of the season.
  - ➤ They finished fourth in Toulouse last season, the start of an active run of four consecutive bronze final losses. They haven't played for a medal since Sydney.
  - ➤ Their main try source this season has been set-piece, scoring the highest percentage of any core team from this possession origin (49 per cent).
    - ➤ Twenty-six of their past 45 tries scored since Sydney have originated from the scrum or lineout (58 per cent).
  - ➤ Their attack is averaging the third-most carries per game of any team this season with 24.9, but their line-break per carry ratio is 9.7, the second-highest of any core team after Spain (11.3).
  - They enjoy the highest retention success from the restart of any team at 28 per cent but have scored just 15 per cent of their tries this season from this possession source.
  - ➤ Ireland have been ahead or level at half-time in their past six games against France, but have converted this advantage into just three wins.
    - ➤ They have lost the penalty count 12-10 this season against France, and will look to improve their discipline against a team who have scored 41 per cent of their tries this season from the quick-tap.
  - ➤ Ireland have been held to one try or less in 18 their past 25 losses against Australia in this active losing streak.





- ➤ They have struggled to break through the Australian defensive line, with just eight line-breaks from 139 carries against them this season at a ratio of 17.4. In contrast, Australia have made 23 line-breaks against Ireland from 107 carries against them this season at a ratio of 4.7.
- ➤ They have not made more than three entries into the Australian 22 in a single game this season.
- ➤ Ireland is currently enjoying a 14-game Series winning streak against Brazil dating back to the Challenge Trophy semi-finals in Kitakyushu in 2017.
  - Last season their average winning margin was 12.3 points, but this season it has grown to 24 points per game across all four meetings in 2023.
- ➤ **Japan** have won five games across the past two events, one less than their total across the first four events this season (six wins).
  - ➤ Despite finishing 10th in Hong Kong, they sit 13 points clear of relegation on the Women's Series standings in ninth overall.
    - They have never finished the season higher than 11th as a core team.
  - ➤ They return to France for the first time since Paris in 2018. This will be their fourth appearance at the HSBC France Sevens after also playing in Clermont-Ferrand on the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Series.
    - ➤ They have only won two of 15 Women's Series games played on French soil, the Challenge Trophy semi-finals against England in 2017 and the 11th-place play-off against Wales in 2018.
  - ➤ They are averaging 13 tries per tournament this season, three more than the last time they were a core team on the 2018 Series.
    - ➤ Their efficiency in the opposition 22 has improved as the season has progressed, from 64 per cent between Dubai and Hamilton to 81 per cent since Sydney.
    - Forty-two per cent of their total tries this season have originated from quicktap possession, the equal-second highest ratio of any team alongside Canada.
  - ➤ They have made more try assists since Sydney (25) than they did between Dubai and Hamilton (16). Only 13 per cent of their assists came via the offload across the first three rounds, but this has increased to 28 per cent.
  - They have now won a pool match at each of their past three events after achieving this just once between Dubai and Hamilton.
  - ➤ Japan have won the second-half 12-5 overall against Great Britain this season across their two meetings, but this hasn't been enough to overcome a 14-point deficit at the break in both games.
  - ➤ This will be just the second time in Women's Series history Japan have been drawn in the same pool as Fiji, with seven of their eight previous meetings coming in placing games.
    - > Japan lost their only pool game against Fiji 33-14 in Dubai this season.





- ➤ Japan's three-game winning streak against Spain came to an end last round in Hong Kong with a 26-17 loss in the ninth-place play-off.
  - ➤ They have not lost consecutive games in this fixture since the 2016-17 Series in Kitakyushu and Clermont-Ferrand, bouncing back to win the past two matches following a loss.
- New Zealand are looking to maintain their Cup final streak in the final round of the season, as the only team to play the penultimate game across all six tournaments.
  - They have reached the past eight Cup finals overall since their return to the Women's Series in Langford, and 12-straight across every event they have participated in since Dubai on the 2020 Series.
    - ➤ They only time they have reached the Cup final at every event in a single season was the 2013-14 Series in Dubai, Atlanta, Sao Paulo, Guangzhou and Amsterdam.
    - ➤ The last time they failed to reach a Cup final on the HSBC World Rugby Women's Series was in Glendale on the 2020 Series.
  - ➤ They have been the top try-scoring team at the past four events this season, including setting a season-record of 39 tries last round in Hong Kong.
    - ➤ This bettered their previous record of 38 tries in Atlanta in 2014-15.
  - ➤ They claimed their 32nd Cup title in Hong Kong last round, and are looking to equal their run of six-straight Cup final victories between Kitakyushu on the 2018 Series and Sydney on the 2019 Series.
    - ➤ No team has ever won six-straight Cup titles in the same season, with their previous record of four in a row (2014-15 and 2020) broken in Hong Kong.
  - They have won their past 30, and 35 of 36 matches this season, with their only loss coming in the Cup final in Dubai against Australia.
    - ➤ Their record is 37-consecutive Women's Series victories between 2018-19.
    - ➤ They have won 28 of 30 Women's Series matches in France, with their only losses coming against Australia in the Cup semi-final in 2016 in Clermont-Ferrand and against USA in the Cup final in Biarritz in 2019.
  - ➤ They have only trailed at half-time twice this season from 36 games played, and on both occasions by just two points.
    - ➤ They went to lose the Cup final in Dubai against Australia, but came from behind to defeat Fiji in their pool game in Cape Town.
  - ➤ Their defence has conceded the fewest tries of any team this season (38), including just six or less at each of the past four events since Hamilton.
    - They enjoy the best tackle completion-rate (85 per cent), have made the most steals (39), and missed the fewest tackles per game (2.5) of any team.
    - They have held their opposition to one try or less in 25 of their 36 games this season. Australia, in the Cup final in Dubai and Hong Kong, and Fiji in the pool rounds in Cape Town are the only teams this season to have scored three tries in a game against them.





- New Zealand made a tournament-high 12 kicks in play in Hong Kong, and as a result six of their 39 tries scored came from this possession source, the most of any team.
- They will play Poland for the first time. New Zealand have not conceded a point against any invitational team since Japan on the 2020 Series in Glendale, holding their opponents scoreless in the last eight games overall.
  - ➤ They enjoy a combined score-line of 377-0 in this period.
- ➤ This will be only the second time since the start of the 2019 Series that they have been drawn in the same pool as USA. Ten of their past 11 meetings have been in Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals.
  - ➤ They are currently enjoying a four-game winning streak against USA, holding them to one try or less in each of their past four victories since Dubai on the 2020 Series.
- ➤ New Zealand are currently enjoying a 20-game Women's Series winning streak against Canada dating back to the HSBC France Sevens in 2015-16.
  - > They have scored 45 points or more in three of four victories this season.
  - Canada have held them to their lowest score of the season, with just two tries in a 10-5 Cup quarter-final win in Vancouver.
- Poland returns for their third HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series appearance after playing as the invitational team in Málaga and Seville last season.
  - They won one game at each tournament, defeating Canada 17-14 in the pool stages in Málaga, and Belgium 24-0 in the ninth-place semi-final in Seville.
  - ➤ The come into this event after finishing fourth overall on the 2023 World Rugby Challenger Series.
    - They were unbeaten in eight of their 12 games, with seven wins and a draw. Their only losses came against China (twice), Czechia and Belgium, with two of these defeats by five points or less.
    - They scored the fourth-most tries across both legs combined with 38.
  - Fifty per cent of their tries scored last season were directly assisted by a teammate, with **Julia Druzgala** their main play-maker with three try assists.
  - ➤ They have only played two of their Pool A opponents before on the Women's Series, losing 31-7 against USA in Málaga, and sharing the spoils evenly against Canada with a 17-14 win in Málaga and 26-7 loss in Seville.
- > **Spain** sits just four points behind Japan, and will be looking to finish ninth or higher for the first time since 2020. Their best finish to a season came in 2014 with sixth.
  - ➤ They have not won a pool game since Cape Town, with 12-straight losses across this stage of the tournament.
  - ➤ They are averaging 10.2 tries per tournament this season, two more than on the 2022 Series.
    - Thirty-nine per cent of their tries this season have originated from the quicktap, however since Sydney they have scored 45 per cent from set-piece.





- ➤ They have made the fewest visits of any core team this season to the opposition 22 with 80, but when they do enter this zone, they score from 76 per cent of their visits, the seventh-highest ratio.
- ➤ They are averaging the third-most offloads per game of any team this season with 5.4. Sixty-four per cent of their assists this season have come via offloads.
- ➤ Their attack averages the most carries per game of any team this season with 26.3, however they are struggling to breaking the defensive line, with just one line-break every 11.3 carries, the highest ratio of any core team.
- Spain are yet to lead Fiji at half-time this season, but have won one of their two meetings, overturning a seven-point deficit at the break to win in Dubai.
  - ➤ This fixture sees two of the top three offloading teams go head-to-head, with an average of 12 offloads per game across their two previous matches.
- > Spain won their only previous Women's Series meeting against Great Britain 14-10 in Dubai, with their defence conceding just two tries and two line-breaks from 22 carries and four visits to their own 22 by the opposition.
- Spain dominated possession in their 26-17 victory against Japan in Hong Kong, making more carries (37-12), passes (50-17), line-breaks (6-3) and offloads (11-0) in the match.
  - Their past four matches against Japan this season have all been decided by a single figure margin, with three losses by seven or less points, and one win by just nine points.
- ➤ **USA** failed to win a medal for the first time this season last round, finishing seventh in Hong Kong. They are looking to win six medals in a season for the first time.
  - ➤ USA are averaging 15.8 tries per event this season, but come to France averaging 18.2 tries per tournament in this country.
    - ➤ They have scored 73 per cent of their total tries from structured possessions (set-piece and restarts), with just 27 per cent from quick taps, steals and kick returns combined.
    - ➤ They have only scored four tries or more in 10 of their 36 games this season (28 per cent), the lowest ratio of any top five ranked team.
  - ➤ They are patient in possession, averaging one line-break every 8.5 carries and one try every 5.4 rucks. Only Spain, Ireland and Japan average more carries per line-break than USA, while their rucks per try ratio is the third-highest of any core team.
  - ➤ Their defence has conceded the third-fewest tries this season, averaging just 13.8 per event, while their tackle completion is also the third-best at 80 per cent.
  - ➤ USA have scored more than 20 points just once against Canada this season, in a 24-7 win in Cape Town. The winning score has been 17 points or less in four of their five games in this fixture on the 2023 Series.
  - ➤ USA enjoyed a scoring run of 17 unanswered points against Poland in their only previous meeting in Málaga before conceding their only try in the second-half.
  - ➤ USA are the last team, to defeat New Zealand on French soil, in the Cup final in Biarritz in 2019. They have eight survivors from that match named in this squad.



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# **KEY PLAYER STATS**

- ➤ **Maddison Levi** is the leading try-scorer this season with 47, and only six tries away from surpassing the highest individual total in a single season held by Portia Woodman who scored 52 tries in 2014-15.
  - She already has the season record for Australia, surpassing Emilee Cherry previous best of 33 tries on the 2013-14 Series.
  - Fifty-three per cent of her tries have been directly assisted by a team-mate, with Charlotte Caslick and Madison Ashby both providing six each, the best combinations for Australia.
  - She was Australia's top try-scorer in Toulouse last season with eight.
- Captain Charlotte Caslick has made the most try-assists of any player this season with 26. Twenty-four have come from passes, and just one from an offload and one from a kick in play. She made a tournament-high eight try assists in Toulouse last season, including three to Maddison Levi, the best combination of the event.
- ➤ Thalia da Silva Costa is Brazil's top try-scorer this season with 23, and is only three tries away from breaking her own season record of 25 tries in 2022.
  - > She scored five of Brazil's 10 tries in Toulouse last season.
- Canada's Sophie de Goede will make her Women's Series debut after playing 22 tests for Canada, including starting every game at RWC 2021. She was Canada's top ball carrier (101) and tackler (65) at the event, scoring their second-most points with 24.
- France's **Joanna Grisez** was last year's top try-scorer in Toulouse with 11 tries in six games played, including six in two games against Pool B opponents Brazil.
  - She is two tries behind Camille Grassineau's all-time French record of 13 tries on home soil.
- Wakaba Hara has set a new season Japanese try-scoring record this season with 21, double the previous record of 10 tries scored by Raichielmiyo Bativakalolo in 2018.
  - Sixty-one per cent of them have been assisted by a team-mate, with Yume Hirano providing four assists, the best combination for Japan.
- Michaela Blyde has scored the second-most tries this season with 43, including the second-most doubles with eight. In the race to finish as the season's top try-scorer, Blyde will have to overcome a four-try deficit, only scoring more tries than Maddison Levi once at an event this season in Hamilton (10 tries to eight).
  - Her combination with Tyla Nathan-Wong has been the best for New Zealand this season, with seven tries assisted, and the third-best overall in the competition.
- > Jorja Miller has made the most steals of any player this season with nine.
- ➤ **Kelly Brazier** needs one more tries to become just the third Black Ferns Sevens to score 100 on the Women's Series after Portia Woodman and Michaela Blyde.
- ➤ **Tyla Nathan-Wong** is closing in on Ghislaine Landry's all-time points scoring record, now trailing the Canadian legend by just 100 points.
  - ➤ She has 211 points so far this Series, her largest haul in as single season, and will look to finish as the top point scorer for the first time since 2019.
- Malgorzata Koldej was Poland's top try-scorer on the 2022 Series with nine, including a hattrick against Pool A opponents Canada in Málaga.
- ➤ Alev Kelter needs one more try to become just the second USA woman to score 100.
  - She was awarded HSBC Player of the Final at the 2019 event in Biarritz.

