

A summary of the first three games of the Sanix International Rugby Tournament in Japan.

Game 1 v Nagasaki Kita High School (Japan)

A pretty scratchy performance with the opposition putting us under pressure. We absorbed the pressure and responded with two tries in the first half and then we extended our lead after the break. Angus Sullivan scored three tries and there were tries to Hugh Reed, Brendan McFarlane and Brad Cording. We ended up winning 34-5 which was comfortable in the end but there are a few things to work on.

It appears we are in the strongest pool with a very good English side and another very good Japanese side.

The way the competition works, if you lose one game you have very little chance of making it in to the top 4 play offs. We have the English side tomorrow which should be a good battle.

Game 2 v Ivybridge Community College (England)

Huge game today against a big and powerful English side. The boys were fired up from the start as the English gave us some lip at the Haka. The most physical and committed performance of the year so far. Tries to Ash Dixon, Mark Jackman and Ryan McLeod, Jackman two conversions and a penalty. 22-0 win. A lot of feeling in the game with a lot of niggling from the English side. Boys responded well and we made them pay for it by tackling and hitting the rucks hard.

Coaches very proud of the entire team as they played a lot better today than they did yesterday.

Only bad thing was an ankle injury to Ash Dixon. This is on top of the ankle injury suffered by Nasi Manu yesterday. Nasi unable to play and both are likely to be out for the next game as well. Tyler Bleyendaal hurt his knee during kicking practice but was able to play, this is causing some concern as well. Hopefully have them back for the semi final if we make it. A couple of the other boys have knocks but we think they should be alright.

Game 3 v Toin Gauken (Japan)

We have just won our third pool game against Toin Gakuen (Japan) They started very well and we were down 6 - 0 after 11 min. A well constructed series of phases within our attacking 22 lead to a try to Brock Pooley.

Mark Jackman converted for a 7-6 lead. They kicked a penalty on the stroke of halftime and we were down 9-6.

The second half started well with a try to Brendan McFarlane and this was followed up with tries to Hugh Reed and Marshall Suckling. In the second half we secured the ball better and made fewer mistakes and eventually the pressure told on the opposition and their defences opened up.

Tries: Pooley, Reed, McFarlane, Suckling

Jackman 4 conv 1 penalty

We have our semi final on May 3rd v Tokai University Gyosei High School (Japan). Not sure who we are playing yet.

The South Africans look very strong and they have qualified as the number 1 seed. We have qualified second. The other two qualifiers are Japanese sides.

We have been very impressed with the Japanese sides as their skill level and commitment are very high