

MAY 2010 ISSUE

MANYATTA



KENYA RUGBY UNION NEWSLETTER

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OFFICIAL KRU NEWSLETTER



Kenya Cup News

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Strong, Sure, Superior....Quins bag the 2010 Kenya Cup

Nivea for Men Quins reclaimed the Kenya Rugby Union's Kenya Cup with a come from behind 26-21 win over Kenya Commercial Bank RFC in a thrilling game of rugby played at the RFUEA Grounds on Saturday 17th April 2010.

This match was one of the most memorable games at the hallowed grounds of Kenyan rugby for all the right reasons. It was a title match, it was aired live across the African continent courtesy of Supersport and it lived up to its billing, giving the spectators value for money.

It was a tale of two halves....quite literally.

Kenya Commercial Bank started this game at a frenetic pace, putting Quins on the ropes early on. Calvin Biko would soon raise a high ball that caused problems for the quartered shirts. This marked a period of sustained KCB pressure that saw scrum half Peter Mutai play in Benjamin Ojema Otieno who touched down. 2009 Kakamega High School captain Fabian Orlando converted to give the Lions an early 7 - 0 lead.

KCB would continue to pressure Quins, forcing the Nivea for Men side into errors. Orlando stroked home a penalty that stretched the bankers lead to 10-0. Advantage KCB ...

Another Quins infringement deep in their half saw them concede a penalty that Orlando put away, stretching the lead to 13-0...all this happening inside the opening quarter of an hour...Orlando added a third penalty on twenty minutes...16-0 KCB...and one would think that this was a done and dusted affair.

Quins' started edging their way back into the game, putting KCB on the back foot. They soon won a penalty that Peter Abuoga put over. KCB 16 Quins 3 and many fans still thought that KCB were running away with

this one. Quins would have other ideas though, still piling pressure on the KCB Lions who somehow survived this torrid period, Ojema Otieno scoring his second try as the game ebbed and flowed to half time with the scoreboard reading KCB 21 Quins 3.

The second half saw the bankers start on a high, taking the game to Quins. They soon fizzled out like a flat soda, allowing Quins back into the game. Jeff Ojwach scored a lifeline of a try for Quins; Abuoga missed this conversion as the scores read KCB 21 Quins 8. This try signaled a renaissance of sorts, Quins getting their act together. The legendary Vincent "Buff" Ongera scored a second Quins try, Abuoga successfully converted this one, cutting the deficit to 21-15 in favour of KCB.

If Quins were building a house, they surely were not going wrong with the foundation...it was suddenly rock solid. They now had KCB on the ropes, forcing them into errors. The bankers soon conceded a penalty that the massive boot of one Abuoga had no problems in ensuring that it sailed over the posts. KCB 21 Quins 18 ... game live!!!!

Midway through the second half, fans were hit by the realization that something phenomenal was happening. Quins had redeemed 15 points and were relentless in their pursuit for the ultimate prize on the day...the Kenya Cup title ...

They continued to pile misery on the bankers, Victor Sudi powering his way to the try as they led for the first time in this entertaining fixture. Abuoga missed this conversion as Quins now led 23-21. Abuoga atoned for this miss by stroking home a penalty to further extend their lead to 26-21. They survived a late KCB rally to literally grab the 2010 Kenya Cup title. Quins had done the improbable ... scoring 23 unanswered second half points en route to a well deserved win.

This was indeed a tale of two halves....definitely match of the season...

Post match comments Quins coach Edward Kinyany' was an elated man, saying he was proud of the team's effort which was culmination of hard work. He was particularly proud of his forwards' ability to deal with the usually rampant KCB forwards.

He was also proud of his young guns who just want to play rugby. Asked about the half time pep talk that turned things around, he said, "I asked the boys what they want deep down inside...were they enjoying themselves. The results were plain for all to see."

Quins prop Daniel Kiptoo was quick to admit that his side's first half show was rather pathetic, saying, "We came expecting the trophy to be handed to us...KCB came hard...I give credit to my team...we went into the interval and I told the lads...if we want this game...let's go out and play...if we don't want it...let's stay in the changing rooms. We came out...we had the belief in ourselves...we kept our heads...we got the result...kudos to KCB...they did not come lying down...they fought to the end."

KCB's coach Michael "Tank" Otieno was frank about his side's loss, saying, "It's amazing...we had the game in the first half...we forgot the game plan in the second half...we just stopped playing...we were comfortable just defending...you cannot defend at 21-3...you have to keep on scoring ..."

Earlier on, Resolution Health Impala RFC beat Nakuru RFC 26-8 to finish third overall.



New boys Homeboyz win the Eric Shirley Shield at the first time of asking

Homeboyz RFC survived an early scare to beat Kisumu RFC 34-10 at the University of Nairobi, running off with the 2010 Eric Shirley Shield.

Kevin Keegan...no relation to that great soccer player Kevin Keegan put Kisumu ahead with a converted try. 7-0 to the lakeside boys. Steve Sakwa soon restored parity when he scored and converted his own try. He soon added a penalty, stretching the lead to 10-7.

Ian Indimuli soon put daylight between the scores, touching down and Sakwa converting for a 17-7 lead going into the half time recess

Second half action saw Steve Matioli drop goal Homeboyz further ahead. Score...20-7 toyou guessed it...Homeboyz...

Keegan scored a penalty for Kisumu, cutting the deficit to 20-10 before Sebastian Shitambasi Shivoka scored a try. Sakwa converted for a 27-10 lead. Oscar Ayodi put the final nail in Kisumu's coffin with another try that Sakwa converted for a 34-10 final score.

Universities and Colleges: Mean Machine II bring some shine to the club trophy cabinets with title win

Mean Machine II finally put some silverware on the Eschuma Absolute's trophy cabinets, edging out the hard fighting Mombasa Spartans 15-13 in the Universities and Colleges final.

Bamburi Super Series



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This year's event is a truly East African affair with teams from all three states taking part. We have the Mumias Sugar Buffaloes, SDV Transami Cheetahs, UAP Rhinos, Nguvu Sharks and Lions from Kenya, Rwenzori and Victoria from Uganda as well as the Bank M Twigas from Tanzania. The Western Kenya town of Mumias hosts a BRSS fixture on Saturday May 1st 2010, the first time a high profile rugby match has taken place in that part of the country...definitely a positive step in further encouraging the growth and development of the game. This is in line with the tournament's theme, *the future of fifteens' rugby*.

The matches kicked off on Saturday 24th April 2010. Nairobi's RFUEA Grounds' hosted the lions share, two matches that yielded lopsided results for the winning teams. The opening fixture was the battle of the cats, pitting two time champions SDV Transami Cheetahs against the Lions in what was expected to be a close fixture.

Here is a recap of that fixture.

SDV Transami Cheetahs v Lions

The Lions started this battle of the cats on a high, putting the Cheetahs under pressure early on. Scrum half Peter Mutai attempted a drop goal that went wide. Lions rookie Fabian Olando soon put his side ahead with a successful penalty kick after a Cheetahs infringement. 3-0 to the Lions.

They would soon concede a penalty that Mike Mugo missed. Gray Cullen's sublime run through the Lions' defence set up a platform for winger Kelvin Omiyo to score. Mugo missed this conversion as the scores read 5-3. A Mugo penalty stretched the scores to 8-3. This signaled a period of Cheetahs dominance that saw Nato Simiyu touching down. Mugo missed this conversion as the scores now read 13-3 to the Cheetahs.

It was one way traffic at this point, the Cheetahs scoring three unconverted tries from Vincent Mose's brace and Cullen's try. Half time score 28-3 to the Cheetahs.

It was the same case as soon as the second half resumed. Innocent "Namcos" Simiyu was dominant in this period of play, picking up a loose Lions' ball before racing a cool sixty yards to touch down. Mugo converted this try for a 35-3 Cheetahs lead. Mike Aung another that "Namcos" converted. 42-3 as the Cheetahs were coasting. "Namcos" stretching Cheetahs' lead to 45-3. Good play between "Namcos" and Ben Nyambu saw the latter touching down with...er...you guessed...Namcos converting. 52-3.

This huge lead saw the Cheetahs' ease off the gas allowing the Lions to score two facing saving tries from Curtis Olago, converted by Collins Kimani while the second coming from the nineteen year old Olando. Olando's try was a gem of a try, he was on hand to pick up the ball from Kimani who had sold a dummy to the Cheetah's backline. Olando shimmied his way to the tryline. Kimani converted for a 52-17 final scoreline.

UAP Rhinos v Mumias Sugar Buffaloes

Defending champions UAP Rhinos gave Mumias Sugar Buffaloes a comprehensive hiding, beating them 61-0 in the second fixture at the RFUEA in a match that was historic for reason appearing later in this text.

Jeff Ojwach opened the scoring minutes into the match, David Ambunya converting for a 7-0 lead. Leon Adongo soon made it 12-0 with an unconverted try. Further unconverted tries from Nick Lang'o and Jared Owinyo saw the Rhinos lead 22-0. Kenya Sevens player Dennis Muhanji touched down. Gibson Weru converted for a 29-0 lead. Weru converted Oscar Ouma's try as the Rhinos took a 36-0 lead into half time.

Ojwach would break for the Rhinos soon from kick off, setting up Ouma for his second try. Weru missed the conversion as Rhinos led 41-0. Sidney Ashioya scored the easiest of tries, Weru converting for a 48-0 scoreline. Kenya Cup top try scorer, the legendary Vincent "Buff" Ongera stretched the lead to 53-0 before Simon Wariuki's penalty made it 56-0.

That historic moment came when Richmond "Uhuru" Baraza's try had to be determined by the Television Match Official (TMO), Weru missed the conversion. Final score UAP Rhinos 61-0 Mumias Sugar Buffaloes .

In the third fixture played in Arusha, visiting Nguvu Sharks led 27-3 at half time, running amok in the second half as they scored 52 points en route to a massive 79-3 win over home side Bank M Twigas.

The fourth fixture between Rwenzori and Victoria had not been played at the time of going to press. That was the Bamburi Rugby Super Series match day one.



IRB Circuit & Schedule

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Kenya Rankings in the IRB Circuit

Samoa	124
New Zealand	121
Fiji	94
Australia	78
England	74
South Africa	54
Kenya	52
Argentina	38
USA	32
Wales	24

England Tour 22nd - 23rd May 2010

Pool B

New Zealand
Wales
Kenya
Portugal

Match Schedule

22nd May 2010 12:20 Kenya vs Portugal
15:26 Kenya vs Wales
19:06 Kenya vs New Zealand

Scotland Tour 29th - 30th May 2010

Pool A

Samoa
Kenya
Argentina
France

Match Schedule

29th May 2010 09:35 Kenya vs Samoa
13:23 Kenya vs Argentina
15:57 Kenya vs France

Find the answers to the below in the grid.

1. Winner of the Kenya Cup 2010
2. The half that KCB would love to forget
3. Third Overall in the Kenya Cup League
4. Runners up in the Eric Shirley
5. Title sponsor of the Super series "future of fifteens rugby";
6. Franchise teams from Kenya (all the five)
7. Nickname for Innocent Simiyu
8. Town in Tanzania in which the Bamburi Super series is played
9. Leading girls rugby team in Schools in Kenya
10. Sponsors of the Kenya Cup Champs for 2010





Local News

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A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

By Erick Situma

A week after curtains come down on the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association's National sevens championships, what lingers on many of our minds is the fact that girls rugby feature for the first time ever. This is an important milestone for the development of the women's game in the country. The Kenya Rugby Union has over the last two years injected tremendous amounts of resources to ensure girl's rugby is as popular as boys rugby in the high schools. This objective has been realized to great extent as was evident at the National finals.

Eight schools participated in the Girls Rugby Nationals. Nairobi province representatives were Nembu, St. Teresa's, Precious Blood and State House girls. Rift valley had Shiners and Hopewell while Western province had Butere and Mukumu Girls Schools. At the end of the two days of action, most teams had something to celebrate about .

Butere beat Mukumu in an all Western province Main Cup final to assert themselves as the leading girls rugby team in Kenya. They did so in class beating their Western rivals 28 – 0. Many boys would not have been able to keep up with the pace and array of skills on display in the Cup final. Winners of the Plate were St. Teresa's upset Nembu 14 – 7 to claim the plate, earning sweet revenge against Nembu who had beat them to second place during the Nairobi provincial girls rugby finals.

championships. The Bowl and Shield Finals were won by the Rift Valley schools, Hopewell and Shiners who outclassed the Nairobi teams in their respective finals. Hopewell beat Precious Blood 28 – 0 while Shiners beat State House 21 – 7. The tournament is best summarized in words of the Hopewell girls school rugby teacher, "My team played four matches, lost 3 and won only 1 yet we have the Bowl Trophy to crown our efforts. Rugby most certainly is a sport with room for everyone!"

KRU is eager to have girls play alongside boys in this year's Safaricom 7's schools category thus setting precedence for All rugby tournament in the country to include women's/girl's rugby as a hallmark of where Kenyan Rugby is headed. Many of the girls have their sights set on the 2016 Olympics. All they now ask for is an opportunity to play a game they have truly and sincerely fallen in love with. A "match" most certainly made in heaven!

RFUEA Capacity to be increased

Have you ever been to any major rugby event at the hallowed home of Kenyan rugby? If you have, I am sure you have had to contend with congestion, lack of adequate spectator space. Well, you need not worry any more for the Kenya Rugby Union has taken steps to ease this congestion ahead of future events.

The KRU recently held a ground breaking ceremony ahead of the construction of new stands on the Ngong' Road end of the grounds. These stands will hold 1,500 fans once complete.

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