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MANYATTA



Kenya
Rugby
Union

KENYA RUGBY UNION NEWSLETTER



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Kenya Cup



THE FIFTEENS SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

Kenya's 2010/2011 fifteens season got underway on Saturday 9th October 2010 when the Kenya Cup, Eric Shirley Shield and Universities leagues all kicked off at various venues countrywide.

It has been a refreshing spectacle, as rugby lovers can potentially follow twenty one matches across three divisions in different parts of the country every weekend. There is plenty of great talent on display, entertaining matches and intriguing results across all the leagues, something that can only serve to further heighten the ever growing profile of Kenyan rugby.

Here is a breakdown of October's on goings across all the leagues, starting with the country's top division, the Kenya Cup.

Kenya Cup

The 2010/2011 Kenya Cup has started off on a rather interesting note, former champions Impala RFC sitting pretty on top of the league table, having registered three wins from three matches, averaging 43 points per game. They collected bonus points in victories over Mwamba RFC (64-5) and Mean Machine RFC (39-18) but were restricted to a normal victory by the battling Nakuru RFC (25-20) on match day three.

At the time of going to press, Strathmore Leos who made their debut in 2008 with a 7-67 loss to KCB, were perched in second place on the Kenya Cup log, their highest ever position. This was achieved with two hard fought wins, a 27-25 win over fellow students Mean Machine RFC and a 29-10 away win over Nakuru RFC.

Mwamba RFC who recently reclaimed the National Sevens Circuit title after a year's hiatus had the worst possible start to the Kenya Cup, finding themselves on the receiving end of a 64-5 thrashing at the hands of league leaders Impala RFC. They were expected to succumb to another huge defeat against league heavyweights Kenya Commercial Bank RFC in their second fixture on match day two but the black shirts upset the apple cart, showing more hunger, more intent, and more purpose as they ran off with the bonus point in an improbable 22-17 result that had the Lions from Ruaraka stunned.

Nakuru RFC's opening two fixtures also contribute to Kenya Cup's October drama. They lost two home ties against less fancied opponents in the form of former giants Nondescript RUFC who ran off with a 15-10 victory and Strathmore Leos who picked up a bonus point in their 29-10 result over the Wanyore. These losses were difficult to explain particularly when you consider the fact that their Nakuru Athletic Club home base has been impregnable in recent seasons. The arrival of Eric Situma seems to have steadied the Nakuru ship as manifested in their battling performance despite going down to a 25-20 home defeat at the hands of Impala RFC.

Moments of individual brilliance

There are times when individual brilliance comes to the fore and deserves all due recognition. Impala RFC's Dan Weku scored an improbable four tries as he guided his side to a 39-18 win over Mean Machine on match day two while Mwamba's Steve Okeyo was the unlikely hat trick hero when his side stunned KCB 22-17 while Peter Abuoga's hat trick rounded off the month of October.

Eric Shirley



Eric Shirley Shield

Defending champions Homeboyz RFC, eager to pick up from where they left off, lie second in Pool A behind Impala II. Both sides boast 100% records at the time of going to press. Quarter final qualification is clearly more important than winning the pools and they will be content just to sit pretty and make it to the knock out stages.

Masinde Muliro and Kisumu RFC hog the top two positions in Pool B and will surely qualify for the quarter finals from this pool. They are clearly head and shoulders above the rest of their opponents as manifested by the huge scores they have registered in the competition thus far. The real fight will be to determine the identity of the remaining two quarter finalists.

Universities League

This league also began in earnest on Saturday 9th October 2010 and while the standard of play may be notches below the Kenya Cup and Eric Shirley Shield, one cannot ignore its competitive nature. As we went to press, Pool A was particularly tight. While three teams led by former Kenya Cup side Blak Blad who alongside Moi University and KCA already have a semblance of quarter final qualification, four other teams who include the Impala Bucks, Catholic, Kabarak and KeMU were jostling for the only slot realistically available.

USIU and Homeboyz II have put some daylight between them and the rest of the chasing pack in Pool B but the remaining two quarter final slots could be taken up by anyone. Upstarts Kenya Polytechnic lie third while Bandari Spartans, losing finalists in 2010 occupy the final quarter final berth but here is the caveat....we still have a few more rounds to play and the current landscape in Pool B could be dramatically altered, so let us look forward to the next issue of this publication to see what happens.



Sevens Naming



NEW FACES DOTE AYIMBA'S SQUAD

Kenya coach Benjamin Ayimba has revealed a twenty-four man squad who will fight it out for selection ahead of the opening legs of the 2010/2011 HSBC Sevens World Series in Dubai (3-4 Dec) and George (10-11 Dec).

Kenya, much adored by their fervent fans, recently exited at the Plate semi-final stage of the recent Commonwealth Games in Delhi. They will start off their campaign in Dubai in Pool A along with reigning World Series champions Samoa, Wales and hosts Arabian Gulf.

Humphrey Kayange will once again don the captain's armband in a squad that will see plenty of fresh faces.

These include National Sevens Circuit MVP Edgar Abere, Dennis Ombachi, and Seje Owade.

Nondies powerhouse forward Gray Cullen, fresh from making his competitive debut for Kenya in Delhi, will add some steel to the forwards with Kevin Umbuge and Kenya number eight Lawi Buyachi also in with a shot for selection.

Other familiar names are speedster Collins Injera, the 2008/9 top try scorer, Lavin Asego, Leon Agongo, Sidney Ashioya, Gibson Weru, Biko Adema and Innocent Simiyu.

The team headed into training on Saturday 30th October 2010 to start preparations.

Kenya Squad:

1. Humphrey Kayange (Mwamba RFC)*
2. Horace Owiti (Mwamba RFC)
3. Edgar Abere (Mwamba RFC)
4. Lavin Asego (Mwamba RFC)
5. Collins Injera (Mwamba RFC)
6. Dennis Ombachi (Mwamba RFC)
7. Wilson Kopondo (Kenya Harlequin FC)
8. Leon Adongo (Kenya Harlequin FC)
9. David Ambunya (Kenya Harlequin FC)
10. Patrice Agunda (Kenya Harlequin FC)
11. Sidney Ashioya (Kenya Harlequin FC)
12. Eden Adero (Kenya Harlequin FC)
13. Brian Nyikuli (Impala RFC)
14. Lawrence Buyachi (Impala RFC)
15. Kevin Umbuge (Impala RFC)
16. Seje Owade (Impala RFC)
17. Innocent Simiyu (Impala RFC)
18. Peter Ochola (Impala RFC)
19. Gray Cullen (Nondescripts RFC)
20. Benedict Nyambu (Nondescripts RFC)
21. Biko Adema (Nondescripts RFC)
22. Oscar Ouma (Nakuru RFC)
23. Gibson Weru (Nakuru RFC)
24. Andrew Amonde (Kenya Commercial Bank RFC)

*denotes captain

Kenya Sevens

Improvement on Commonwealth Games performance

The Kenya sevens team improved on their previous showings at the Commonwealth Games, qualifying for the main cup quarter finals before bowing out at the hands of a fired up Australia. They would later fall to Scotland in the Plate Semis.

This games were interesting for the fact that Kenya were able to pull off the biggest upset, the 12-10 win over reigning IRB Sevens World Series champions Samoa, a result that saw them top Pool C en route to the main cup quarters.

This overall performance bettered their 2006 showing in Melbourne where they won the Bowl.

Kenya's Collated Results

Kenya 40 Malaysia 0

Kenya 17 Papua New Guinea 12

Kenya 12 Samoa 10

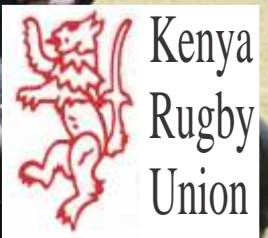
Main Cup Quarters:

Kenya 5 Australia 27

Plate Semis

Kenya 17 Scotland 22

Awards



Kenya Rugby Annual Gala and Awards

Awards Categories

XV Player of the year (Public Voting)

Innocent Simiyu

Peter Abuoga

Daniel Kiptoo

XV Team of the Year (Public Voting)

Kenya Harlequins

Kenya XV

Homeboyz RFC

XV Coach of the Year (Public Voting)

Edward Kinyany

Michael Otieno

Eric Situma

Sevens Coach of the Year (Public Voting)

Mitch Ocholla

Charles Cardovillis

Paul Murunga

Sevens Team of the Year (Public Voting)

Strathmore

Kenya Sevens

Kenya Harlequins

Sevens Player of the Year (Public Voting)

Humphrey Kayange

Felix Ayange

Lavin Asego

Junior Player of the Year (Public Voting)

Patrice Agunda

David Ambunya

Joel Omer

Women's Personality of the Year (Public Voting)

Celestine Navalayo

Sarah Otieno

Doreen Remour

Rugby Journalist of the Year Award (Public Voting)

Ayumba Ayodi

Brian Mulavi

Celestine Karoney

Referee of the Year Award

Godwin Karuga

Constant Cap

Ray Oruo

Chairman's Award for Distinguished Service

Michael Otieno

Aggrey Chabeda

Judy Wanjira

Development Award

Eric Situma

John Kagagi

Malik Ndemi

Spirit of Rugby Award

Mtaa Rugby Initiative

Homeboyz Rugby

Edward Rombo

League Standings



As at 6 th Nov Leg 5

KENYA CUP

TEAM	P	W	D	L	FOR	AG	DIFF	BONUS	PTS
Impala	4	4	0	0	161	64	97	3	19
Quins	3	3	0	0	132	31	101	3	15
Strathmore	4	2	0	2	88	129	-41	4	12
KCB	3	2	0	1	89	32	57	2	10
Mwamba	4	2	0	2	104	123	-19	2	10
Nondies	4	2	0	2	72	99	-27	1	9
Nakuru	4	0	0	4	50	93	-43	2	2
MeanMachine	4	0	0	4	49	174	-125	2	2

ESS POOL A (EAST)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	FOR	AG	DIFF	BONUS	PTS
Homeboyz	5	5	0	0	160	36	124	4	24
Impala II	5	5	0	0	120	42	78	3	23
KCB II	5	4	0	1	54	45	9	2	18
Strathmore II	4	4	0	0	92	22	70	1	17
Quins II	4	2	0	2	106	62	44	3	11
Mombasa	4	1	0	3	36	68	-32	3	7
Nakuru II	5	1	0	4	35	91	-56	2	6
Mwamba II	5	1	0	4	51	166	-115	0	4
Machine II	4	0	0	4	28	87	-59	1	1
Nondies II	5	0	0	5	17	96	-79	0	0

ESS POOL B (WEST)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	FOR	AG	DIFF	BONUS	PTS
Kisumu	4	4	0	0	311	21	290	4	20
Masinde M	4	4	0	0	188	15	173	4	20
Kakamega	5	3	0	2	75	50	25	3	15
Bungoma	4	2	0	2	47	130	-83	2	10
Webuye rfc	5	2	0	3	59	135	-76	1	9
Kisiii	3	1	0	2	29	20	9	2	6
Maseno U	4	1	0	3	22	85	-63	0	4
Siaya Mtc	5	0	0	5	0	280	-280	0	0

University League



Things are starting to fall in place with the potential quarter finalists beginning to emerge from amongst the sixteen teams competing in the Universities league.

POOL A

Kenyatta University's Blak Blad have been a class above the rest, opening up an eight point lead, this, courtesy of their perfect unbeaten record. Five wins from five matches with five bonus points to boot. A 34-6 away win over Catholic all but guarantees Blad pole position in this pool.

Second placed Moi University are also unbeaten, and with a game in hand. It is very likely that they too will be playing in the post season as they had probably done enough by winning all their preceding games, something that cushions them from any forthcoming mishaps.

Now, the real fight appears to be for the third and fourth slots. Kabarak and the Impala Bucks have enjoyed a great run of form over the past two weekends, winning important fixtures that have brought them the much needed points and quantum leaps up the league table. They currently occupy the final playoff slots in this pool. The fast fading KCA who have been on a steady decline since leading Pool A three weeks ago pose the strongest threat to these two sides while Catholic, Egerton and KeMU must win their remaining fixtures and depend on a whole set of factors and miracles to see them through to the post season.

POOL B

Leaders Homeboyz II and USIU have put daylight, maybe even a fortnight between them and the chasing pack, securing their berths in the quarter finals. Third placed Kenya Poly are ten points behind second placed USIU and their sights will be set more on consolidating this position or at least a berth in the quarter finals. They must however fend off opposition from Shepherds, Spartans and rank outsiders Daystar who are all in with the slightest of chances to be in the quarter finals.

UNIVERSITIES POOL A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	FOR	AG	DIFF	BONUS	PTS
Blakblad	5	5	0	0	142	48	94	5	25
Moi Uni	4	4	0	0	64	18	46	1	17
Kabarak	5	3	0	2	73	83	-10	2	14
Impala III	4	2	0	2	89	97	-8	4	12
KCA	5	2	0	3	70	66	4	3	11
Catholic	5	1	0	4	56	34	22	2	6
Egerton	5	1	0	4	37	74	-37	1	5
KEMU	5	1	0	4	62	104	-42	1	5

UNIVERSITIES POOL B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	FOR	AG	DIFF	BONUS	PTS
Homeboyz	5	5	0	0	176	18	158	5	25
USIU	5	5	0	0	175	11	164	4	24
K.Poly	5	3	0	2	87	66	21	2	14
Sheperds rfc	4	2	0	2	37	79	-42	1	9
B.Spartans	4	1	0	3	30	69	-39	1	5
Daystar	4	1	0	3	37	80	-43	1	5
Nazarene	5	1	0	4	16	174	-158	0	4
Oryx	4	0	0	4	8	59	-51	2	2

