



**OFC U-17 Championship
Stade Pater, Tahiti
20 March - 24 March 2007**



Event Report

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TOURNAMENT ORGANISATION

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FOREWORD



The stunning setting of Tahiti provides a wonderful backdrop for an Oceania Football Confederation championship. French Polynesia helps provide a real Pacific feel to this tournament and I am grateful for all the fine work of the French Polynesia government and Federation Tahitienne de Football in making sure this edition of the U-17 age group is a memorable one.

2006 provided everybody in Oceania with a boost as Auckland City qualified for the FIFA Club World Cup—Japan 2006, Solomon Islands qualified for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup—Rio de Janeiro 2006 and New Zealand U-20 women qualified for the FIFA U-20 Women's Championship—Russia 2006. All of these teams competed proudly against the world's best teams and now the chance to shine and showcase the talent from our region falls to the young men in this age bracket.

The aim is of course to win the Oceania U-17 Championship—Tahiti 2007 title and qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup—Korea 2007. Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Tahiti will play to determine which of them will represent our Pacific neighbourhood at the World Cup and it is a massive honour for such young players to represent their country with the chance to go much further.

Oceania's future depends on the development of our youth. Indeed, this highlights the importance of such an age-group competition and it allows our best youth players to shine on the world stage.

I would like to thank all the many volunteers and football fans for their work in making this tournament a major success.

Yours in football,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Reynald Temarii.

Reynald Temarii
President
Oceania Football Confederation

GENERAL ORGANISATION

Stade Pater provided players, officials and spectators the perfect surroundings for the OFC U-17 Championship—Tahiti 2007. It was the first OFC football event to be held since the inaugural OFC Beach Soccer Championship in Moorea in 2006.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) ensured that matches kicked off on time and that all run schedules were adhered too in precise and timely fashion. The pitch was in immaculate condition for each match day.

The Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) Technical Director Jim Selby with the help of Patrick Jacquemet provided the OFC Technical Study Group charged with the responsibility of analysing each match as part of the confederation's ongoing commitment to analysing technical and physiological standards within the OFC region.

Local media coverage of the event was supported by the help of Tahiti Nui Television (TNTV) thanks to the excellent relationship that exists between OFC President/FIFA Vice-President Reynald Temarii and TNTV Director-General Yves Hauptert and TNTV broadcast journalist and FIFA Media Officer Olivier Huc.

Coverage of the tournament was broadcast on TNTV with local football magazine show "Fenua Foot" detailing the matches in a highlight format.

Special thanks must go to Federation Tahitienne de Football (FTF) and its team of volunteers for their hardwork and commitment to transport teams to and from Stade Pater and to training venues.



MATCH OFFICIALS

OFC is committed to developing world-class match officials and that development programme was furthered in Tahiti as the top officials from around the region gathered for the OFC U-17 Men's Championship - Tahiti 2007.

All participants were required to undergo the OFC/FIFA Referees Fitness Test designed to simulate match conditions and combines a speed test with interval and endurance training.

The results of the test were pleasing with all referees passing with flying colours for the second consecutive OFC competition of 2007.

The performance of OFC match officials earned recognition by FIFA with three officials nominated for duty at the FIFA U-17 Men's World Cup - Korea 2007.



REFEREES

Rakesh Chand VARMAN	(FIJ)
Michael HESTER	(NZL)
Fiti AIMAASU	(SAM)
Averii JACQUES	(TAH)
Lencie FRED	(VAN)

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Teariki GOODWIN	(COK)
Andrew CHARI	(FIJ)
Rohitash DAYAL	(FIJ)
Nick WALDRON	(NZL)
Jeremie HOATA	(TAH)
Michael JOSEPH	(VAN)



STORY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Match Day 1

NEW ZEALAND SHINE ON OPENING DAY OF U-17 CHAMPS

New Zealand made the only winning start to the OFC U-17 Championship—Tahiti 2007 at the Stade Pa-ter, in Tahiti on Match Day 1 after defeating highly-rated Fiji 3-1. Host nation Tahiti failed to fire against French-speaking rivals New Caledonia both teams forced to settle for a 0-0 draw.

New Zealand—battled hardened after an extensive build-up programme under Colin Tuaa—were too strong for a pacy and physically strong Fijian side and scored goals through Corey Chettleburgh, Costa Barbarouses and Jacob Mathews.

Chettleburgh eased Kiwi nerves just before halftime when he rifled home a Barbarouses cross and it was the prolific Team Wellington striker, Barbarouses, who added New Zealand's second goal with a custom-ary finish on 58 minutes. Solomon Getia threw Fiji a lifeline with a well-taken goal on 65 minutes but New Zealand's Jacob Mathews restored his team's two goal advantage just three minutes later to ensure the Kiwis finished Match Day 1 on top of the qualifying section.

Tahiti coach Eddie Etaeta was left disappointed by his team's 0-0 result against New Caledonia with a lack of sharpness in front of goal costing both teams crucial ground on New Zealand. New Caledonia's Luther Wakamumume joined Tahiti's Steevy Chong Hu and Tuheiarii Tetuanui in receiving yellow cards from referee Michael Hester of New Zealand.

Match Day 1 results

Tahiti 0 New Caledonia 0

New Zealand 1 (Corey Chettleburgh 44, Costa Barbarouses 58, Jacob Mathews 68) Fiji 1 (Solomon Getia 68) (Halftime: 1-0)



STORY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Match Day 2

NEW ZEALAND QUALIFY FOR FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP—KOREA 2007



New Zealand secured qualification for the FIFA U-17 World Cup—Korea 2007 after defeating host nation Tahiti 2-1 on Match Day 2 at the Stade Pater. Mario Hofmann set Kiwi hearts racing when he opened the scoring after just five minutes silencing a vocal home support.

Tahiti bounced back in the 18th minute when Stephane Faatiarau who hit a long range effort past New Zealand goalkeeper Michael O'Keefe to the delight of the home crowd.

With the team's deadlocked at halftime 1-1 in a keenly contested match it was the mercurial talent of Kiwi striker Costa Barbarouses that

put New Zealand into the lead after 61 minutes.

Tahiti were unable to recover from the blow and at the full-time whistle New Zealand celebrated their remarkable achievement by performing a victorious haka.

Fiji and New Caledonia fought out a fiercely contested match that ended in an entertaining 1-1 draw. Joshua Taware put Fiji in front after 19 minutes but New Caledonia hit back from the penalty spot through Roy Kayara after 44 minutes. Despite the captivating entertainment on show the final result rendered Match Day 3 a purely academic exercise with New Zealand Korea-bound.

Match Day 2 results

Tahiti 1 (Stephane Faatiarau 18) New Zealand 2 (Mario Hofmann 5, Costa Barbarouses 61) (Halftime: 1-1)

Fiji 1 (Joshua Taware 19), New Caledonia 1 (Roy Kayara 44 pen) (Halftime: 1-1)



STORY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Match Day 3

NEW ZEALAND COMPLETE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH 100% RECORD

New Zealand signed off their OFC U-17 Championship—Tahiti 2007 campaign in emphatic style after they trounced previously unbeaten New Caledonia 4-0. Once again New Zealand could thank the clinical finishing of New Zealand striker Costa Barbarouses who blasted a hat-trick for his team with substitute Jacob Mathews chiming in with a goal in the 90th minute.

With the issue of qualification already settled New Caledonia made wholesale changes to their starting line-up with nine new faces in the starting line-up. New Zealand followed suit with no less than

New Zealand work very hard throughout an interesting encounter but the goal deluge didn't begin until just before halftime when Barbarouses struck in the 42nd minute. Barbarouses grabbed further goals in the 73rd and 84th minutes before Mathews sealed the victory.

Tahiti and Fiji concluded their OFC U-17 Championship—Tahiti 2007 campaigns by fighting out a scoreless draw. The results on Match Day 3 saw New Zealand finish with a 100% record with Tahiti second, Fiji third and previously unbeaten New Caledonia finishing a disappointing fourth.

Match Day 3 results

New Caledonia 0 New Zealand 4 (Costa Barbarouses 42, 73, 84, Jacob Mathews 90) (Halftime: 0-1)

Tahiti 0 Fiji 0



STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA**GOAL SCORING ANALYSIS—INDIVIDUAL RECORDS****Hat Tricks**

Team	No	Name	Game	Date	Goals Scored	Result
NZL	10	Costa Barbarouses	NCL vs. NZL	25/03/07	3	4-0

Goals scored by substitutes

Team	No	Name	Game	Date	Minute on	Minute scored	Score
NZL	7	Jacob Mathews	NZL vs. NCL	24/03/07	74'	90'	4-0 (4-0)

Penalties

Team	No	Name	Game	Date	Score
NCL	13	Roy KAYARA	FIJ vs. NZL	22/03/07	1-0 (1-1)

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA

CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS			
Team	Yellow Cards	Red Cards (indirect)	Red Cards (direct)
FIJ	7	0	0
NCL	3	0	0
NZL	4	0	0
FIJ	3	0	0

YOUNGEST PLAYERS			
Team	No	Name	Age
NZL	2	Isaac FITZGERALD	15years 9 months
TAH	1	Ralph HEITAA	15 years 7 months
TAH	6	Tahimanarii TARAIHAU	15 years 9 months
FIJ	11	Josua Inoke TAWAKE	15 years 4 months
FIJ	16	Isikeli Jeke KELI	15 years 11 months
FIJ	20	Filimone Ravutovuto BOLETAWA	15 years 8 months

AVERAGE AGE	
Team	Average Age Years/Months
FIJ	16 years 4 months
TAH	16 years 6 months
NZL	16 years 5 months
NCL	16 years 6 months

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA

How the goals were scored	
Shot	11
Penalty	1
Header	1
Own goal	0
TOTAL	13

From set piece	
From a penalty	1
After a free kick	1
From a corner kick	0
After a free kick	0
After a throw in	0
After a penalty	0
TOTAL	2

The way the goals were scored (The goals may come from a combination of actions including counter attack and build-up play)	
Wing play	3
Solo effort	2
Exceptional finish	3
Combination play	1
Defence splitting pass	1
Diagonal ball in penalty area	1
Defensive error	1
TOTAL (from Open Play)	11

Where the goals were scored	
Inside goal area	1
Inside penalty area	9
Outside penalty area	3
TOTAL	13

When the goals were scored	
1st—15th minute	1
16th—30th minute	2
31st—45th minute	3
46th—60th minute	1
61st—75th minute	4
76th—90th minute	2
TOTAL	13

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA

GOAL SCORERS

No	Name	Team	Goals
9	Costa BARBAROUSES	NZL	5
7	Jacob Ben MATHEWS	NZL	2
3	Solomon GETIA	FIJ	1
11	Joshua TAWARE	FIJ	1
13	Roy KAYARA	NCL	1
8	Cory CHETTLEBURGH	NZL	1
14	Mario Andres HOFMANN	NZL	1
5	Stephane FAATIARAU	TAH	1



STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - FIJI

FIJI

Final Ranking (3rd)

Results

Vs New Zealand 1 – 3
Vs New Caledonia 1 – 1
Vs Tahiti 0 – 0



Goal Scorers

3 Solomon GETIA 1
11 Joshua TAWARE 1

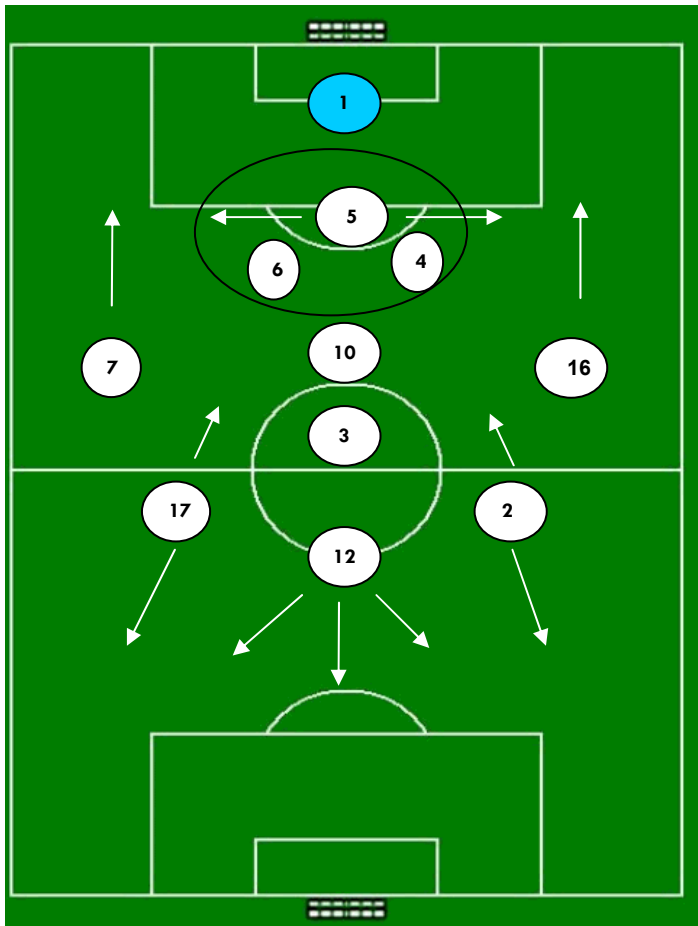
No	Name	NZL 1-3	NCL 1-1	TAH 0-0	TOTAL
1	Wasim ALI NISHAD (C)	90	90	90	270
2	Sagar Shamol KUMAR	90	67>	90	247
3	Solomon GETIA	90	90	90	270
4	Josefata NEIBULI	90	90	90	270
5	REMUERU	90	90	90	270
6	Mohammed Shamir HUSSAIN	72>	67>	90	229
7	Ilimotama JESE	90	90	Res	180
8	Joseva BASUDRA	Res	Res	37	37
9	James Martin MCKAY	>53	>67	Res	60
10	Ranjesh PRASAD	65>	90	51>	206
11	Joshua TAWARE	Res	90	90	180
12	Osea Rabaraka LAUTIKI	90	77>	90	257
13	Akuila RADANNA	Res	>77	Res	13
14	Ratu TUILEVUKA	>72	Res	90	108
15	Niteli Namuka CAUCAU	>65	Res	Res	25
16	Isikeli Jeke KELI	90	90	90	270
17	Nasoni MEREKE	53>	Res	Res	53
18	Ratu BAINIVALU	Res	>67	>88	25
19	Faiyum KHAN	Res	Res	Res	0
20	Filimone BOLETUAUDA	Res	Res	Res	0
Coach	Mohammed FAROUK				

RES: Substitute; NEL: Not eligible to play; INJ: Injured; ABS: Absent; EXP: Expulsion

Disciplinary Record

Yellow Cards (7)
Red Cards (indirect) (0)
Red Cards (direct) (0)

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - FIJI



Formation

Starting 5 : 4 : 1
 Attacking 3 : 4 : 3
 Defending 5 : 4 : 1

Key Points:

Tall players with athletic ability
 Defensive players competitive with aerial ability
 Excellent team spirit throughout the game

Outstanding Players:

1. Goalkeeper: Wasim ALI NISHAD (C)
3. Central midfield: Solomon GETIA
10. Central midfield: Ranjesh PRASAD

General Comments:

Players very determined with a good team attitude

Retreating defence - applying pressure when ball is lost

Direct attacking play

From set piece	
From a penalty	0
After a free kick	0
From a corner kick	0
After a free kick	0
After a throw-in	0
After a penalty	0
TOTAL	0

How the goals were scored	
Shot	2
penalty	0
Header	0
Own Goal	0
TOTAL	2

Where the goals were scored	
Inside goal area	0
Inside penalty area	1
Outside penalty area	1
TOTAL	2

The way the goals were scored	
Wing play	0
Solo effort	0
Exceptional finish	1
Combination play	1
Defence splitting pass	0
Diagonal ball in penalty area	0
Defensive error	0
Total	2

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - NEW CALEDONIA

NEW CALEDONIA

Final Ranking (4th)

Results

Vs Tahiti 0 – 0
Vs Fiji 1 – 1
Vs New Zealand 0 – 4

Goal Scorers

13 Roy KAYARA 1



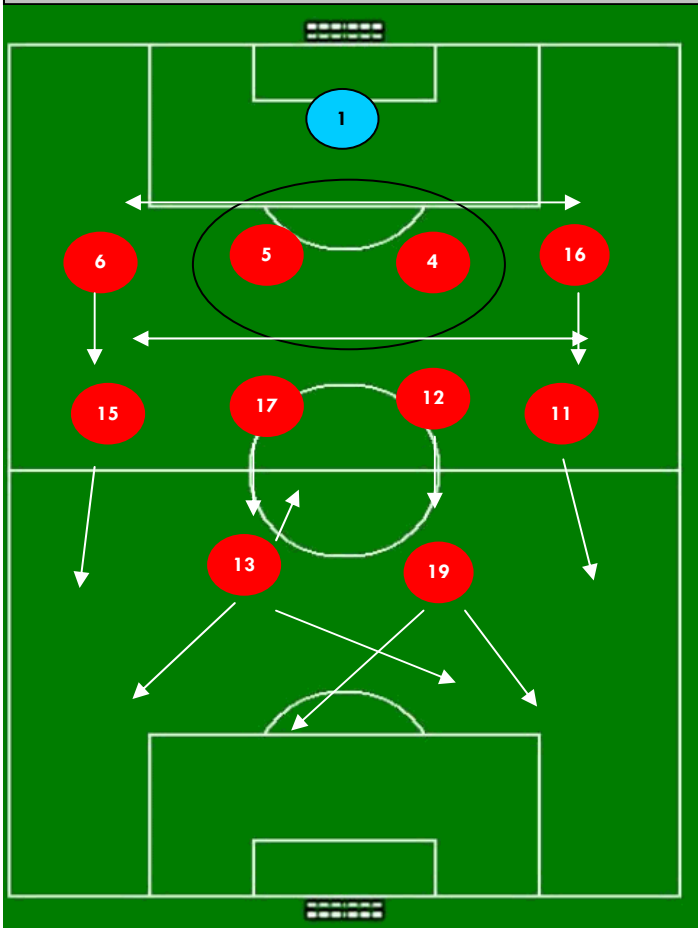
No	Name	TAH 0-0	FIJ 1-1	NZL 0-4	TOTAL
1	Jean-Daniel CAEE	90	Res	90	180
2	Gregory TARAMOIM	Res	Res	90	90
3	Joris GORENDIAWE	90	>25	90	245
4	Vincent VAKIE (C)	90	90	90	270
5	Jean Claude JEWINE	90	90	>59	211
6	Theodore HUANGANYAN	Res	Res	90	90
7	Jedioja SAIKO	90	90	Res	180
8	Jihovany LOLOHEA	>72	>70	72>	110
9	Joseph IMEGIT	Res	90	Res	90
10	Ricardo PELLETIE	40	Res	>45	85
11	John TRUPIT	90	90	90	270
12	Maxime CHEVRY	90	90	90	270
13	Roy KAYARA	45>	66>	Res	111
14	Lamo XEWE	Res	25>	Res	25
15	Leopold MAKALU	90	70>	>72	178
16	Jordan XOLAWAWA	72>	>66	90	186
17	Luther WAKAMUMUME	90	90	Res	180
18	Johan AUSSU	>85	Res	45>	50
19	Fabian AGAMALU	Res	Res	59>	59
20	Anthony BASSI	Res	90	Res	90
Coach	Robert DRAWILO				

RES: Substitute; NEL: Not eligible to play; INJ: Injured; ABS: Absent; EXP: Expulsion

Disciplinary Record

Yellow Cards (3)
Red Cards (indirect) (0)
Red Cards (direct) (0)

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - NEW CALEDONIA



Formation

Starting 4 : 4 : 2
 Attacking 3 : 1 : 4 : 2 / 3 : 4 : 3 / 4 : 3 : 3
 Defending 4 : 4 : 2 / 4 : 5 : 1

Key Points:

Zonal defensive tactics & defensive block
 Compact around the Penalty Area
 Strong quick players with athletic and dribbling ability

Outstanding Players:

12. Midfield: Maxime CHEVRY
 5. Defender: Jean Claude JEWINE
 4. Defender: Vincent VAKIE (C)

General Comments:

Players very determined and strong with a good attitude throughout the game

Short passing & quick movement game

Strong defensive pressure on the ball

Quick feet and change of direction

From set piece	
From a penalty	1
After a free kick	0
From a corner kick	0
After a free kick	0
After a throw-in	0
After a penalty	0
TOTAL	1

How the goals were scored	
Shot	0
Penalty	1
Header	0
Own Goal	0
TOTAL	1

Where the goals were scored	
Inside goal area	0
Inside penalty area	0
Outside penalty area	0
TOTAL	0

The way the goals were scored	
Wing play	0
Solo effort	0
Exceptional finish	0
Combination play	0
Defence splitting pass	0
Diagonal ball in penalty area	0
Defensive error	0
Total	0

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

Final Ranking (1st)

Results

Vs Fiji 3 – 1

Vs Tahiti 2 – 1

Vs New Caledonia 4 – 0



Goal Scorers

7	Jacob Ben MATHEWS	2
8	Cory CHETTLEBRUGH	1
9	Costa BARBAROUSES	5
14	Mario Andres HOFMANN	1

No	Name	FIJ 3-1	TAH 2-1	NCL 4-0	TOTAL
1	Michael O'KEEFE	90	90	Res	180
2	Isaac FRITZGERALD	Res	Res	>87	3
3	Mars KEOMAHAVONG	>86	Res	90	94
4	Colin MURPHY	58>	83>	Res	141
5	Timothy Esmonde MYERS	90	90	90	270
6	Nicholas CORLISS	90	90	Res	180
7	Jacob Ben MATHEWS	90	90	>74	196
8	Cory CHETTLEBRUGH	90	90	82>	262
9	Costa BARBAROUSES (C)	90	90	90	270
10	Moses Renata PETELO	Res	>58	>82	40
11	Benjamin HUNT	90	90	Res	180
12	Frazer COLSON	90	90	87>	267
13	Geoffrey MACINTYRE	Res	Res	90	90
14	Mario Andres HOFMANN	90	58>	Res	148
15	Tyson Lothar BRANDT	Res	>83	90	97
16	Godwin DARKWA	86>	72>	Res	158
17	Jason Thomas HICKS	Res	>72	90	108
18	Hamish Mickael CHANG	>58	Res	74>	106
19	Adam James COWEN	Res	Res	90	90
20	Jacob Christopher GLEESON	Res	Res	90	90

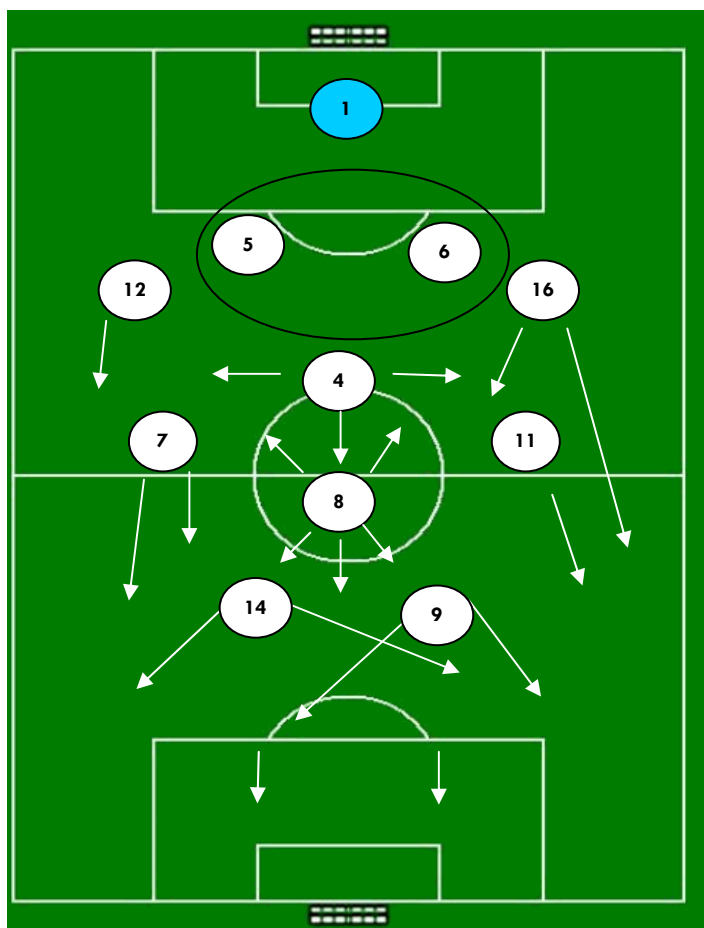
Coach Colin TUAA

RES: Substitute; NEL: Not eligible to play; INJ: Injured; ABS: Absent; EXP: Expulsion

Disciplinary Record

Yellow Cards	(4)
Red Cards (indirect)	(0)
Red Cards (direct)	(0)

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - NEW ZEALAND



Formation

Starting 4 : 4 : 2
 Attacking 4 : 3 : 3 / 3 : 1 : 3 : 3
 Defending 4 : 4 : 2 / 3 : 5 : 2 / 4 : 5 : 1

Key Points:

Strong players with athletic ability
 Effective defensive play with aerial ability
 Quick forward movement as a unit
 Mobile wide midfield & central play maker

Outstanding Players:

9. Striker: Costa BARBAROUSES (C)
 7. Midfield: Jacob Ben MATHEWS
 8. Midfield: Cory CHETTLEBRUGH
 5. Defender: Timothy Esmonde MYERS

General Comments:

Strong on the ball and a mentally tough team with fit players that are effective throughout the match

Good tactical organisation and team structure in attack & defence

Effective attacking moves down both wide areas with back players linking in with the attack.

Zonal defending tactics with quick pressure around the ball and ball orientated marking

From set piece	
From a penalty	0
After a free kick	0
From a corner kick	0
After a free kick	0
After a throw-in	0
After a penalty	0
Total	0

How the goals were scored	
Shot	8
Penalty	0
Header	1
Own Goal	0
Total	9

Where the goals were scored	
Inside goal area	0
Inside penalty area	8
Outside penalty area	1
Total	9

The way the goals were scored	
Wing play	3
Solo effort	1
Exceptional finish	2
Combination play	0
Defence splitting pass	1
Diagonal ball in penalty area	1
Defensive error	1
Total	9

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - TAHITI

TAHITI

Final Ranking (2nd)

Results

Vs New Caledonia 0 – 0
 Vs New Zealand 1 – 2
 Vs Fiji 0 – 0



Goal Scorers

5 Stephane FAATIARAU 1

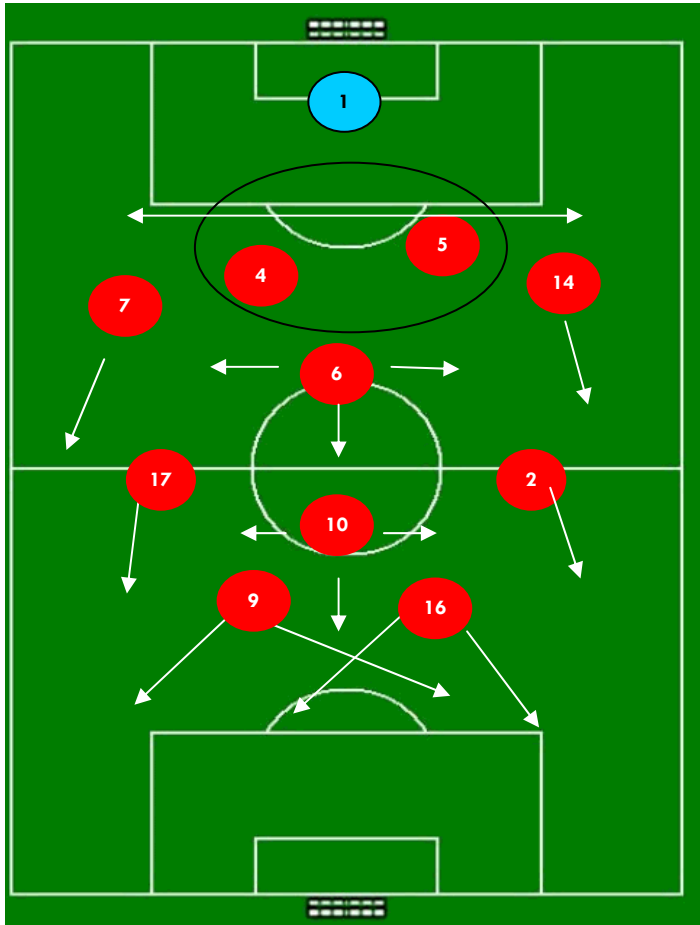
No	Name	NCL 0-0	NZL 1-2	FIJ 0-0	TOTAL
1	Ralph HEITAA	90	90	90	270
2	Hitinui WARREN	Res	Res	>45	45
3	Marama AMAU	Res	90	45>	135
4	Yannick VERO	90	90	90	270
5	Stephane FAATIARAU (C)	90	90	90	270
6	Tahimanarii TARAIHAU	90	90	90	270
7	Steevy CHONG HUE	90	90	90	270
8	Thomas TEPEHU	>64	67>	55>	148
9	Tuheiarui TETUANUI	74>	90	90	254
10	Stanley ATANI	90	90	90	270
11	Tevaihu TEHURITUAU	64>	>67	83>	170
12	Christophe GENDRON	60>	Res	Res	60
13	Toatane ISAIA	>60	Res	>83	37
14	Edson LEMAIRE	90	90	90	270
15	Januario POROI	Res	Res	Res	0
16	Benson MANARII	90	85>	>55	210
17	Hitinui WOU LIN	>74	>85	Res	21
18	Henri TEIKITUHAAHAA	Res	Res	Res	0
19	Maheanuu TUA	Res	Res	Res	0
20	Teheipuarii HAUATA	Res	Res	Res	0
Coach	Eddy ETAETA				2970

RES: Substitute; NEL: Not eligible to play; INJ: Injured; ABS: Absent; EXP: Expulsion

Disciplinary Record

Yellow Cards (3)
 Red Cards (indirect) (0)
 Red Cards (direct) (0)

STATISTICS AND TEAM DATA - TAHITI



Formation

Starting 4 : 4 : 2
 Attacking 4 : 4 : 2 / 3 : 4 : 3
 Defending 4 : 4 : 2 / 4 : 3 : 2 : 1

Key Points:

Apply pressure to the ball to win quickly
 Defensive block that work together
 Strong players with athletic ability

Outstanding Players:

6. Central Midfield: Tahimanarii TARAIHAU
 5. Central Defender: Stephane FAATIARAU (C)
 4. Central Defender: Yannick VERO

General Comments:

Players very determined and strong on the ball

Compactness in defence and defensive block in back third with one or two front screeners

Direct attacking play with quick passes to fast strikers

Good team spirit with strong commitment to each other

From set piece	
From a penalty	0
After a free kick	1
From a corner kick	0
After a free kick	0
After a throw-in	0
After a penalty	0
Total	1

How the goals were scored	
Shot	1
Penalty	0
Header	0
Own Goal	0
Total	1

Where the goals were scored	
Inside goal area	0
Inside penalty area	
Outside penalty area	1
Total	1

The way the goals were scored	
Wing play	0
Solo effort	0
Exceptional finish	0
Combination play	0
Defence splitting pass	0
Diagonal ball in penalty area	0
Defensive error	0
Total	0

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

The winning team

New Zealand was the best overall team at the tournament and was technically and tactically efficient in all their matches.

They demonstrated team cooperation in their attacking play and reliability in their defensive organisation.

The technical and inter-passing skills shown by the New Zealand players often provided the team with a controlled and well structured forward movement that resulted in goal scoring opportunities.

Their short passing combinations were effective against most teams, as was their ability to change the point of attack as their wide players moved forward to combine with the strikers.

The New Zealand team had several players who controlled the tempo of the game and unsettle opponents by their mobility and tactical awareness.

The players' on-field performance was supported by an off-field team of knowledgeable and effective management, sports science and medical personnel.

This second team of professionals delivered player welfare, after game recovery, injury treatment and nutritional assistance to the players throughout the tournament.

The New Zealand team's pre tournament preparation included a systematic training plan, camps, local games and international matches that provided them with the best opportunity for success.

Other teams

In general most other teams had insufficient pre tournament time together as player identification and team selection was late in some cases, disruption to final preparation phase due to local uncontrollable situations, limited financial assistance and no international games.

The top two places at the tournament New Zealand & Tahiti had the best pre tournament preparation program and game schedule with their Member Association committed to providing the coaching staff and players with the best opportunity for success.

New Caledonia showed tremendous progress in team organisation and game awareness from their pre tournament preparation stage in December 2006 mainly due to their residential camp training program and experienced technical staff. Fiji indicated that they have players with the physical physique and game awareness to develop into a competitive competition contender. Tahiti demonstrated that they have young players with physical qualities and skill to challenge any country.

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Not all players and teams are equal

The level of domestic competition and talented player pathways with structured programs for junior and youth football in most of the island countries is still developing or non-existent.

If a Member Association is to have a competitive international program then a strong domestic club competition at the youth level with accompanying talented player technical development is essential.

Training and playing opportunities for the talented young player with facilities and resources to develop their skills to an international standard is varied between countries to the extreme.

Some countries had a structured pre tournament periodisation program that provided facilities and financial support - while other countries had a limited, forward planning program, training and playing opportunities or little pre tournament financial support.

There is a close correlation between the quality and frequency of training and the number of high level games where players are able to gain match experience, and the success of a team at an international level. Most of the participating teams at the tournament had little opportunity to gain the required experience.

Pre tournament preparation between teams at this tournament varied between countries from approximately three years in advance (including early identification and development opportunities) to two months before the tournament.

Medical and sport science support provides the players with the best opportunity to repeat high performance actions that the game demands to be successful.

There were variations between the teams in the medical and sports science knowledge and personnel afforded to each of the teams.

Talent identification, player selection methods, process and procedures with a systematic, scientific and football related approach can provide a country with the best athletic and football skilled players.

The selection of potential talented players needs to start at an earlier age (12 years) and be accompanied with “Developing the Talented Football Player Programs” that develops physical, technical and tactical actions required at a world event.

OFC is committed to providing opportunities for a more level playing field in the future and assisting all countries to reach world standards.

The question must be asked – if the Island Countries have better physical & athletic players, players who are fast with quick individual skill better than New Zealand – why can't they win against teams like New Zealand & Australia - there are psychological and tactical considerations that need to be developed by both players and coach.

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Technical and Tactical Observations

All teams need to continue to develop physiological, technical, tactical and game smart aspects in relationship to international standards and modern game demands.

The ability of an individual player and groups of players to maintain possession especially in tight areas while creating goal scoring opportunities and defensively deny an opponent effective attacking & goal scoring opportunities can not be understated and requires constant and frequent practice.

Further work needs to be done on physical conditioning of players that meets today's positional and tactical game demands at world standards.

To be a winning team at an international tournament, extremely fit and well trained players that have positional tactical understanding are factors that contribute to a team's success.

The above observations provide an insight into the current technical status and future development requirements of players to be competitive and effective at the international level.

Listed below is a selection of technical & tactical training recommendations that may assist in developing football qualities require to be competitive at this level of tournament.



TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Player & Team Training

Technique Development

- The player's first and last touch on the ball in tight & pressure situations
- Control and move the ball into a secure area and away from opponents feet
- Identify the best targets to pass too, player or area and the type of pass required
- Effective technique of crossing and long accurate passes
- 1 v 1 attacking and defending actions
- Tackling technique – how, when & where to tackle to win the ball
- Heading technique - attacking and defending from crosses and long balls
- Goalkeeper positioning, reading the game and technical considerations
- Running with the ball & dribbling - creativity, flair, improvisation, cleverness, deception and decision making - when, where, how & why as a means of keeping possession and effecting the tempo of the game

Fitness and mobility development

- Quick feet, agility, strength training and evasion games
- Acceleration / de-acceleration and changing direction quickly activities
- Game and position related endurance training - linked to reading the game and game actions
- High intensity game actions - linked with mental concentration and specific match situations and tactical considerations
- Pressure play incorporating ball centred attacking and defending game actions
- OFC Standardise fitness testing, monitoring, evaluation and program adjustments

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Team tactics and game awareness development

Group tactics and game awareness development

- Quick & accurate combination play around the PA, midfield and wing play
- Group tactical awareness training - 3 v 4 / 4 v 3 : 5 v 3 / 3 v 5 , 6 v 5 / 8 v 8
- Structured lead up preparation to create goal scoring opportunities
- Group pressing, blocking and stopping crosses
- Counter attacking - tactical, random, collective, traditional
- Quick ball speed, game reactive and proactive speed off the ball
- Tracking opponents forward runs into goal-scoring areas
- Attacking & defensive role of front screeners / midfield link & play makers
- Cooperative team / game awareness and tactical understanding training
- Maintaining an effective playing shape / formation when attacking, defending or tactical considerations
- Style of play when attacking, defending or tactical considerations
- Playing as a collective unit when attacking, defending or tactical considerations
- Defensive considerations - block, zone / man to man / flexibility, defending low and high tactics
- Ball oriented defending & block defending tactics
- Anti-pressing ball oriented defending tactics
- Counter attacking & counter the counter attack
- Attacking combination play breaking down the defensive block
- Changing the game tempo and style of play - tactical considerations
- Playing without a sweeper and or defending with two central defenders

Injury prevention, management and player welfare programs

- Ensure players have effective movement technique and fitness levels
- Common football injury awareness program - player and coach
- Football injury treatment and management program - player and coach
- Physiological medical screening and player profiles
- Nutritional awareness and monitoring program
- Recruitment or training of competent support staff
- Pre tournament sickness prevention program

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Periodisation, training and competition plan

- International competition plan - short, medium, and long term
- Strong domestic youth league & underpinning club development structure
- Talented player camps and training plan with outcomes
- Player identification and recruitment plan with outcomes
- Individual and team training schedule
- Periodisation plan for training to develop game specific requirements
- Equipment and resources to aid high performance player development
- Monitor, evaluate, review and adjust training & competition program
- Pre tournament match schedule of lead-in games with tactical outcomes to achieve



TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

The MA challenge

- National teams to meet playing & fitness world standards for 2009 & 2011 - OFC U17 tournaments
- Forward planning of budgets, personnel and scheduling for an effective and sustainable national team program commencing four years prior to the event
- Opportunities and facilities for children to start playing football at a younger age in small sided games that challenges / develops tactical and game awareness
- Training and up-skill competent effective coaches & support personnel on effective methods of training and preparing a team for international competition
- Establish an effective talent identification criteria, method, recruitment, retention and development program supported by camps and games
- Accelerated development & competition programs talented youth players
- Effective use of MA academies for training the talented players at all age groups
- Aggressive marketing to attract the best athletes to come and play football at a younger age
- Recruitment and training of competent medical and sport science support staff
- A sustainable, strong domestic junior & youth club competition and pathways into senior football competitions
- Allocated budget to effectively prepare the team not just send the team to tournaments
- Selecting and training the best - playing against the best regularly as a performance indicator
- Working with OFC Technical Department to incorporated into their technical training and preparation programs – technical & tactical observation finds from this tournament that will provide for a better prepared and effective performance

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Common issues

- Poor body shape to quickly see opponents, ball, goal, team mates - turn & move forward
- Midfield players without the technical ability & vision to play a quality forward pass at the right time & pace to forward players – A strong need to develop this type of player
- Strikers not making effective runs into goal scoring areas or runs to be easily found and difficult to track or mark
- Dribbling at the wrong time & place, getting too close to defender, dribbling into tight areas
- Poor crossing technique under pressure / when challenged
- Unable to change the tempo of the game to create a tactical situation
- Ineffective in breaking down a block defence
- Team leader (s) who effect the game and actions of other players by his / their verbal communication / directions
- Composure & vision in tight areas
- Quality of technique in tight situations / areas
- Reading the cues and reacting to combination & patterns of play actions
- Proactive movement off the ball in attacking situations
- Midfield losing shape after attacking moves have broken down
- Not compact and too much space between the back, midfield and forward lines
- Strikers often isolated from midfield players and each other

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

Recommendations

- More than 4 teams require at future tournaments
- If only 4 teams at this tournament - then 2 points for a win not 3. This would ensure that on the last day a team could still win the tournament if they had only two previous drawn games
- OFC standard fitness testing criteria for all Island Countries against world standards
- Pre-tournament U15 Friendship Games - 9 to 12 months before U17 Championships
- OFC to facilitate an U15 mini tournament with regional cluster Islands as a preparation / leading phase for the Oceania U17 World Cup Qualification Championships (PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji + 1 Australian State Team)
- MA need to nominate for the OFC U17 Championships 18 months prior to the tournament as an indication that they have a genuine commitment to effectively preparing their team and staff
- Additional MA criteria for entry into the tournament may include:
 - Established Player Development Pathway
 - Talented Player Development Plan for other age group
 - National U17 Team Preparation Plan & Budget
 - Competent & up-skilled technical staff
- Attendance at the OFC National Coaches / Technical Directors Workshop – “The Preparation & Training of National Teams for International Tournaments”

LOCAL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

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PHOTO GALLERY





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