

# RUGBY DAY IN CANADA

N°5 FEB 2011



**WHITBY'S KYLE ARMSTRONG**

**ANDER MONRO  
RUGBY CANADA PRO REPORT  
COAST TO COAST PHOTO REVIEW  
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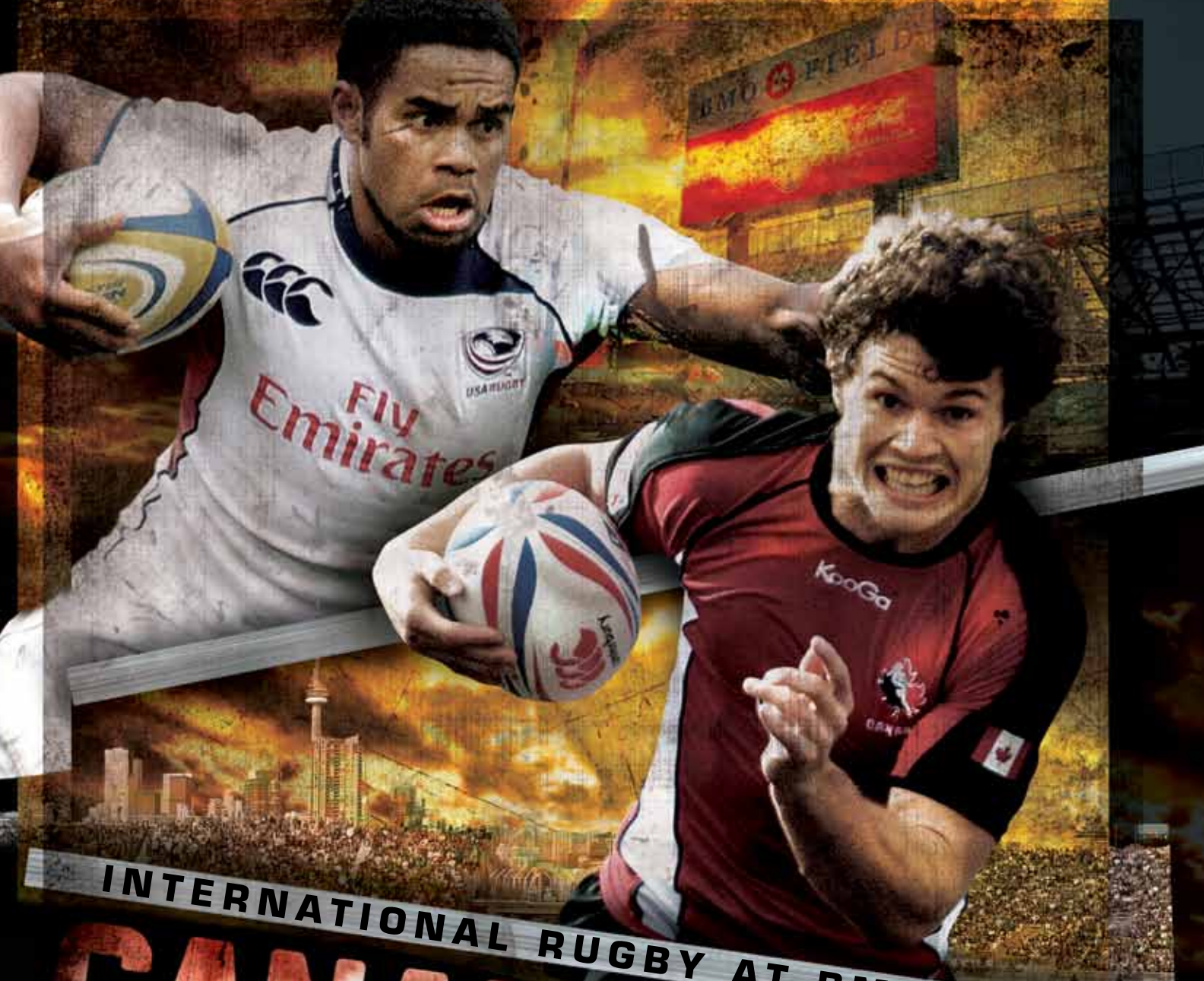
N°5 FEB 2011

Canada's (unofficial) national rugby magazine

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## RUGBY DAY IN CANADA

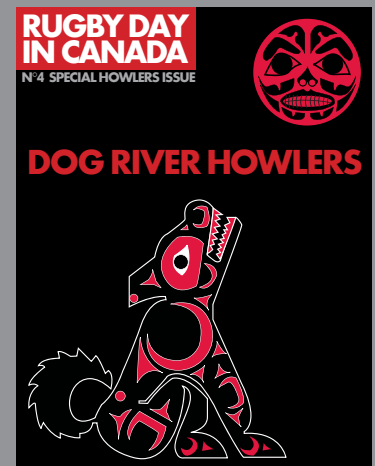
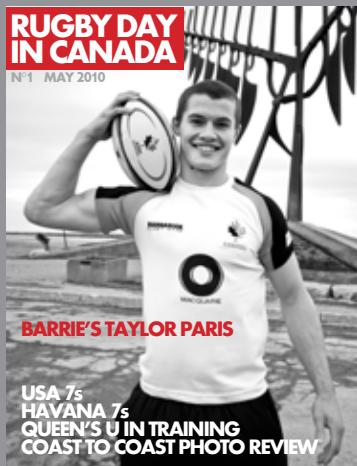
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KYLE ARMSTRONG IN VICTORIA, BC | JRL

# EDITORIAL

## *Getting back on track*

Injuries are part of sports, especially a contact sport like rugby. It's always horrible news to hear that someone won't be going to a tournament because of an injury, especially when you know that the player was really looking forward to going. This issue's cover and feature player, Kyle Armstrong, missed the Junior World Cup in Moscow last summer and was sidelined for almost a year due to surgeries and complications.

In my seven years of covering Canadian rugby as a photographer, I've turned off my camera and pointed the telephoto lens away every time there's an injury on the field. I don't have a super moral reason of doing it, it's simply my solidarity with the player who is temporarily down. It's respect for the players.

In May 2009, when Defence Minister Peter MacKay was injured at a rugby friendly in Parliament Hill, ex Canada captain and fellow Nova Scotian Morgan Williams rushed to his side to see how he was, and then stood between him and the mainstream media photographers who were converging on the fallen player like backsliding vegetarians on a bucket of KFC. Captain Morgan told them off, and only then did they stop shooting. They may have bigger lenses, but they certainly have little respect for the sport or those who play it. I will always remember that day to remind myself to elevate rugby photography to where it should be -- it should serve the players and the sport, not the photographers or the media.

With this in mind, this fifth issue serves as a shout out to all rugby players who are recovering from injuries and I hope that they get back on track soon. Just like Kyle who, after four painful surgeries and so many rehab sessions, is finally back in playing form. I wish him the best of luck for future tournaments!

Please allow me to conclude this with a few personal thanks.

This issue turned out more special than I've hoped, as we are featuring the awesome kick-ass illustrations of New Zealand artist Allan Youl. For the article "Blood Sport" by Jeff Hull, Allan gave us permission to use his drawing of Dan Carter and then graciously drew Ander Monro to complete the article. Thank you very much, Allan!

We are also privileged to again use the excellent photos of Mr. Hugh Jervis from Victoria. I encourage teams in Vancouver Island to hire him for your games so he can raise funds to get to New Zealand for the RWC this fall. Just imagine all the excellent photographs of our Canadian boys if he ends up going there to cover the games.

To three local illustrators and fellow visual artists (who are also from the rugby community) for adding oomph to this magazine: Kirk, Garth, and the beautiful Paige. The Serjeantson brothers are the talent and wit behind our new comic series "Twick & Ham". Garth and Paige have likewise helped me with the supporting artwork for this and previous issues.

And finally to Rugby Canada for their solid behind-the-scenes support for this magazine.

Thanks everyone for your support! :-)

**José Romelo Lagman**

Editor | Publisher | Photographer -at-Large  
[RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com](mailto:RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com)

PS. Congrats to our National Women's Team for winning the USA Sevens grand finals! We'll feature their photos in the next issue.

UWO MUSTANGS, 2010 | JRL



# THE TEAM

### Contributing photographers + illustrators + writers + researchers:

- Mark Bergshoeff | Vancouver, BC
- Daryl Griffith | Vancouver, BC
- Hugh Jervis | Victoria, BC
- Kristy Martin Hale | Victoria, BC
- Caity McCulloch | Duncan, BC
- Judy Teasdale | Victoria, BC
- Kevin Blanchette | Calgary, AB
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- Jeff Hull | Toronto, ON
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- Kirk Serjeantson | Toronto, ON
- Garth Serjeantson | Guelph, ON
- Paige Stewart | Toronto, ON
- Marie Jolicoeur | Montréal, QC
- François Ratier | Montréal, QC
- Martin Silverstone | Montréal, QC
- Dustin Cerreti | Bathurst, NB
- Brian Krawetz | Halifax, NS
- Natalie Bulger | Charlottetown, PE
- Colin Squires | St. John's, NL

**Special thanks!** Many of the contributors to this magazine shoot photographs or write articles for RUGBY CANADA and we'd like to thank RC for letting us use content originally produced for them.

**"Rugby Day in Canada"** : The name of the magazine is inspired by the famous rugby expression "today is a rugby day!" and the CBC show about that *other* sport in this country "Hockey Night in Canada".



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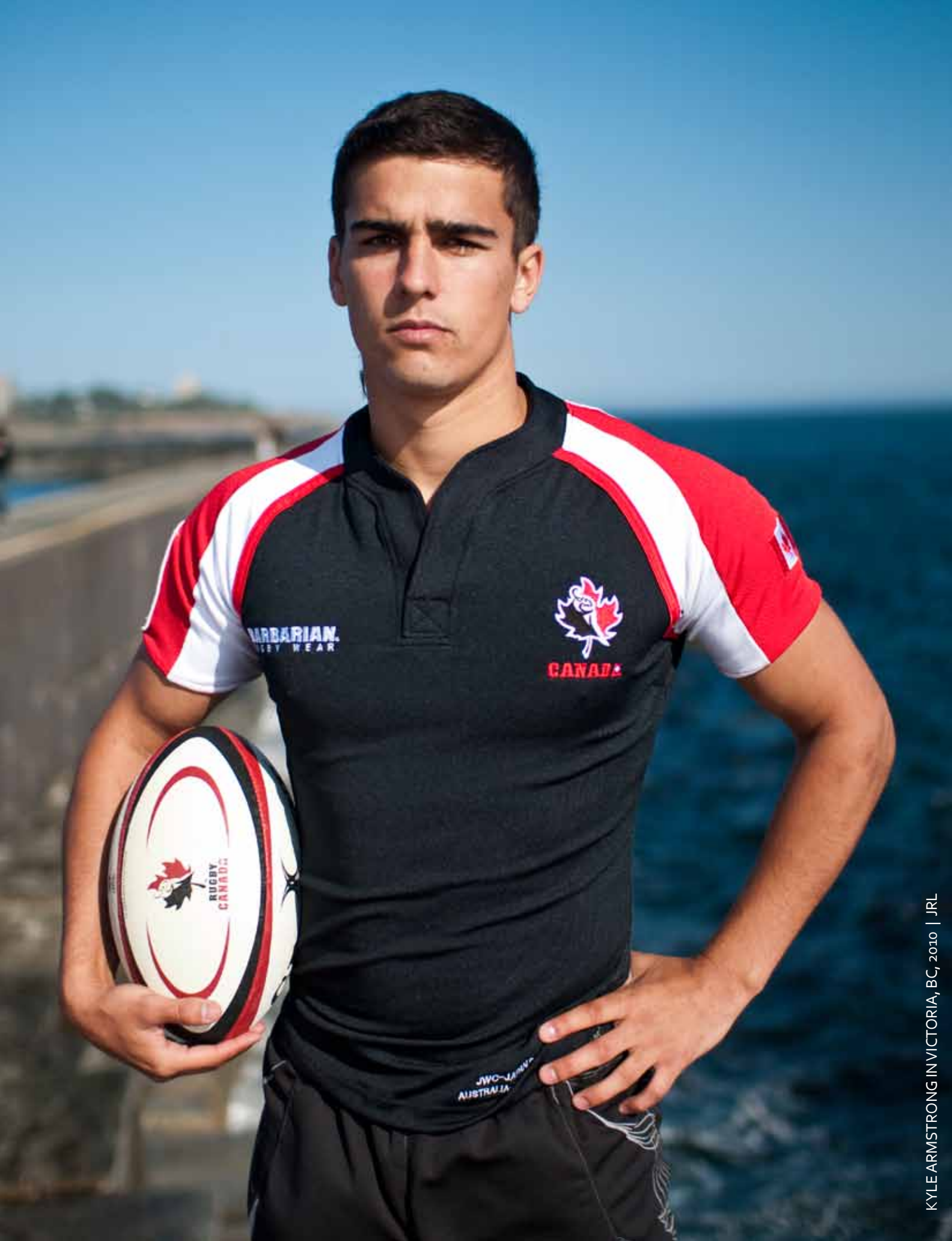
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# KYLE ARMSTRONG PRIMED FOR RETURN

*By Andrew Smith [BC Rugby]*

Victoria, BC: Few Canadian rugby players have experienced the ultimate highs and lows that Kyle Armstrong has endured in his young playing career.

From lifting the Daily Mail Cup in front of a packed Twickenham crowd to being sidelined because of a hand injury that required surgery. From the honour of representing Canada at the Junior World Championship in Japan, to rupturing his ACL and tearing his MCL off his femur – **Armstrong has always battled adversity to play rugby.**



Kyle and his Truro College teammates after winning the Daily Mail Cup at Twickenham Stadium in London

KYLEARN



don in 2009 [Photo courtesy of Truro College]

As the 2011 Rugby World Cup approaches and his former teammates are vying for roster spots to New Zealand, Armstrong is facing his most difficult challenge yet. A torn MCL/ACL, a staph infection and four painful surgeries later, Armstrong is finally moving on from the past 11 months of rehabilitation.

After his introduction to rugby in his freshman year at Sinclair Secondary in Whitby, Ontario and at Ajax Wanderers RFC, it took Armstrong just two years to make the jump from high school rugby to the national Under-17 team. A strong showing with Canada at the Millfield Festival caught the eyes of academy scouts in England. Less than four months later, Armstrong was training fulltime at Truro College, a prestigious rugby academy that feeds players to the premiership side Exeter Chiefs.

Armstrong continued to develop as a promising rugby prospect and earned himself a trip to New Zealand with Canada's Under-20 program in 2009. He left the tour early to play with Truro in the Daily Mail semifinals and eventually in the finals where his side captured the national title.

"Playing in the Daily Mail tournament was amazing!" Armstrong said, looking back on the experience. "The tournament was a single knockout with 501 college and school teams from across England, so just being in the finals was a feat."

Armstrong injured his hand in the semifinal of the tournament, but ended up playing through the pain until Truro captured the title. The injury proved costly, however, as he was sidelined and his trip to the 2009 Junior World Championship was in jeopardy. The scrum half overcame the injury and a week after removing the cast, flew to Japan with the Canadian Under-20 team where he started all five matches.

With another strong showing in the books, Armstrong proved to be a valuable prospect for the senior national team and was carded upon returning to Canada. He was one of just three Under-20 players offered the opportunity to train alongside Canada's senior players.

In 2010, Armstrong was eyeing his second tour with the Junior National Team before he tore both his ACL and MCL while playing for the Castaway Wanderers in Vancouver Island, BC. The injury was devastating both mentally and physically for Armstrong who watched Canada's Under-20 team depart for Russia without him. His fellow junior carded players, Brett Beukeboom and Connor Braid, have since gone on to represent Canada at the senior level while Armstrong headed to rehab for his daily sessions.

After 11 months of grueling recovery, Armstrong is now training again with the Castaway Wanderers. His return to the pitch is near, and once he is cleared by his doctors, he will once again have the opportunity to prove himself on the national stage.

"I'm hoping to be back out shouting orders and playing by March," Armstrong said. "The injury has definitely tested me but I still can't wait to be cleared to play." **RDIC**

*Andrew Smith is the Communications Manager for the BC Rugby Union. A former communications intern for Rugby Canada and Sports Editor at Uvic's the Martlet, Andrew has covered the Canadian Under-20 Men's rugby team on their recent tours of New Zealand, Japan and Russia. Andrew has also written freelance articles for Japan Rugby Magazine, and Scrum Magazine Ontario.*

# ARMSTRONG



# Q&A with KYLE

*In the vast suburbia east of Toronto, there are a few players who have risen in the ranks and have played for the Canadian junior and senior teams. One of them is Whitby's Kyle Armstrong who currently resides in Victoria, BC. RUGBY DAY IN CANADA magazine is privileged to feature Kyle in this issue.*

**RDIC:** Hey Kyle - when did you start playing rugby and which schools, clubs and teams have you played for so far? Did you or do you play any other sport aside from rugby?

**KA:** Started playing rugby in Grade 9 at my high school, Sinclair Secondary, after making the switch from soccer. And then played for my club Ajax Wanderers and Team Ontario that summer and the summers since. Until I moved to England after Grade 11 to play for Truro College, an England South West Academy.

**RDIC:** How did you end up in Truro, England? Why did you decide to pass up the chance to go to Shawnigan Lake School to study across the pond? And how do you think your rugby skills were developed differently in that English school?

**KA:** I ended up at Truro from playing at the Millfield Festival with the Canada U-17 Team. Luckily one of the coaches from the school was there and saw me play and offered me to attend Truro and play. So I did! And I think it was a great positive for my playing because it exposed me to a different style of rugby, one that challenged me and forced me to really improve my then weaknesses, which I couldn't get away with anymore.

**RDIC:** What did a Whitby kid do for fun in a small town like Truro? Did you teach your English classmates how to properly skate on ice? Did they feed you Cornish pasties everyday? :-)

**KA:** I definitely spent a lot of time bumming around town until everything shut-down at 5pm, which took some getting used to. Other than that I hung out with the people I lived with playing Rugby o8', went to club training, or walked into town to buy a tasty Cornish pasty or milkshake

**RDIC:** Tell us, how awesome was it to play at legendary Twickenham Stadium in one of your school tournaments!?

**KA:** Was pretty amazing! Seeing as the tournament was a single knockout out with five hundred and one college and school teams from across England. So just being in the finals was a feat. I believe we even had seven coach buses of students and lecturers make the four and a half hour journey up from the college for the game. And winning the game by over twenty points topped it off nicely.

**RDIC:** Which U-17 and U-20 tours have you played in? And having played alongside your Canadian teammates again and seeing their skill levels, how do you compare the training system in England to the Canadian system? What do you think each side can learn from the other?

**KA:** With the U-17s we just went to the Millfield Festival and with the U-20s I went away to New Zealand and to Japan for the JWC. The main difference that I noticed is just the fact that it's much easier for

England to get their sides together to train even at the age grade level compared to us in Canada because of the size of the country. But I also noticed right away how much time the college players I played with put in, even though they were just college or county calibre.

**RDIC:** You were injured in the weeks leading to the Junior World Rugby Tournament in Moscow this past summer. What corrective surgeries have you gone through and when do you think you'll be back at 100 per cent? How's the recovery process been so far?

**KA:** Haha I've gone through quite the list. Basically I had the main reconstruction in April 2010, then two more surgeries due to my knee scarring down, which left me with barely any range. And finally after the third surgery things were going great for about two weeks until I had to go back under because I got staph infection in my joint (probably the most painful thing so far.) And I'm hoping to be back out shouting orders and playing by March of this year. To be honest it sucked! It has definitely tested me but I still can't wait to be cleared to play again.

**RDIC:** Now that you're living in Victoria, have you had the chance to watch the local teams like the Vikes and James Bay play? How do you compare the Ontario rugby scene to that of the Island?

**KA:** Don't know how to answer this one since I'm pretty Ontario bias... other than they don't play on hard grounds with brown grass.

**RDIC:** From an earlier chat, you've mentioned that your plan is to be a fireman and you certainly won't be the first rugby player to work for that goal. How are you making this dream happen?

**KA:** I've looked into it and got all the information I think I need, and also talked

to people around the rugby club that are or were firefighters about how to go about it but right now the first step is fixing this knee.

**RDIC:** Final question – and I ask this in all interviews – what have you learned from playing rugby that can help you the rest of your life?

**KA:** That I should stress less, but when that's not an option there is always practice and games where you can take out some stress by hitting someone and not get in trouble!

**RDIC:** Thanks Kyle! And thanks to your mum for helping us with the photo shoot in Whitby!

**KA:** Thanks to everyone that's helped from Ajax Wanderers, Castaway Wanderers, my family and mates. And a big one to my parents. Thanks!







VS



## United States of America

- 1. Mike MacDonald (Leeds Carnegie) England
- 2. Phillip Thiel (Domestic-Based) England
- 3. Shawn Pittman (London Welsh) England
- 4. John Van der Giessen (Bath) England
- 5. Hayden Smith (Saracens) England
- 6. J.J. Gaganio (Eastern Province) S.A
- 7. Todd Clever (Suntory) (c) Japan
- 8. Inaki Basauri (L'Aquila) Italy
- 9. Mike Petri (Newport-Gwent Dragons) Wales
- 10. Tai Enosa (Domestic-Based) England
- 11. Kevin SwAiryn (Agen) France
- 12. Andrew Suniula (Domestic-Based) Ireland
- 13. Paul Emerik (Ulster) Ireland
- 14. Takudzwa Ngwenya (Biarritz) France
- 15. Chris Wyles (Saracens) England
- 16. Mate Moeakiola (Bobigny 93) France
- 17. Chris Biller (Domestic-Based) Ireland
- 18. Scott Lavalla (Dublin University) Ireland
- 19. Nic Johnson (Domestic-Based) England
- 20. Tim Usasz (Nottingham) England
- 21. Setareki Tuilevka (Montpellier) France
- 22. Zach Test (Loughborough University) England
- 23. Will Johnson (Oxford University) England

## Canada

- 1. Frank Walsh (Domestic-Based) France
- 2. Pat Riordan (Domestic-Based) (c) France
- 3. Jason Marshall (Domestic-Based) England
- 4. Jamie Cudmore (Clermont-Auvergne) France
- 5. Luke Tait (Ex. of Stade Montois) France
- 6. Sean Michael Stephen (Plymouth Albion) England
- 7. Stan McKeen (Oxford University) England
- 8. Aaron Carpenter (Plymouth Albion) England
- 9. Ed Fairhurst (Ex of Cornish Pirates) England
- 10. Ander Monro (Ex of Colorno) Italy
- 11. Justin Mensah-Coker (Ex of Moseley) England
- 12. Phil Mackenzie (Esher/Wasps) England
- 13. DTH Van der Merwe (Glasgow Warriors) Scotland
- 14. James Pritchard (Bedford Blues) England
- 15. Matt Evans (Newport-Gwent Dragons) Wales
- 16. Kevin Tkachuk (Glasgow Warriors) Scotland
- 17. Scott Franklin (Ex. of Cornish Pirates) England
- 18. Tyler Hotson (Plymouth Albion) England
- 19. Josh Jackson (Stade Montois) France
- 20. Adam Kleeberger (Ex. of Auckland) N.Z.
- 21. Sean White (RGC 1404) Wales
- 22. Ryan Smith (Ex of Montauban) France
- 23. Mike Pletch (Domestic-Based) France



**THE RUGBY CANADA  
PRO REPORT**

**By Jeff Hull**  
*Artwork by Garth Sergeantson*

On Saturday, August 6th, 2011, just weeks prior to the World Cup in New Zealand, Canada's likely World Cup squad will face-off against their North American rivals, the U.S.A. Eagles, at BMO Field in Toronto. With the World Cup being the cumulative point in any country's development cycle, we here at The Pro Report saw the chance to use the excitement surrounding this match to answer a number of important questions.



USA vs. CANADA IN EDMONTON, AB, 2009 | J. PL

# USA vs CANADA

There will be, and rightfully should be, a great deal of hype behind this contest. Canadians will have an opportunity to see their World Cup squad play a full-international match at a first class stadium; and the Canada versus U.S.A. rivalry is sure to send sparks flying whenever and wherever it occurs. But what will the two teams that take the field at BMO look like? As the culmination of four years of preparation, what kind of statement will each team make about the pace and quality of player development in these two North American countries? How have each of these nations fared, in dealing with the advance of professionalism in rugby, and by what metric should we judge that development?

**W**e would like to begin by answering our last question first. The two senior men's sides listed here, which we present to you as, admittedly, one of many possible selection scenarios, are by definition the very top of each nation's developmental pyramid. There will be those across Canada and across our readership who disagree with the assertion that overseas professional leagues represent the best option for elite player development; however, we here at The Pro Report believe there is ample evidence to support it. Across the Americas, and even in Argentina where player development is ahead of the North American curve, elite rugby players flock to European leagues to ply their trade and develop their skills. The number of professional players produced by a rugby nation remains an important benchmark when conduct-

ing assessments on development. With this in mind, what conclusion can we draw by looking at the Canadian and American sides likely to take the field this coming August in Toronto?

The U.S.A continues to feature an imposing and battle-hardened forward pack, stocked with professionals playing in some of the world's elite competitions. If players are to be judged by the competitions they routinely play in, then the American front row must surely be given the nod in this comparative analysis. The only worthy side note here is that both countries field a crop of domestically trained players at the hooker position, with Canada's Captain Pat Riordan being the most accomplished.

**T**he second rows in this clash are truly seasoned and elite professionals. The Canadian and American engine rooms are fuelled by players with significant top tier professional experience. Canada's Jamie Cudmore and Luke Tait have both seen action in the French Top 14, while on the U.S.A. side, Smith and Van der Giessen both ply their trade in the English Premiership. We reluctantly call this one a draw.

The back-rows are another interesting area of study, and the Americans certainly heap praise upon the likes of Todd Clever and J.J. Gaganio, who play top tier rugby in Japan and South Africa respectively; however, it is Canada's overseas stars in the back-row who have traditionally held the edge in these head-to-head clashes. This analysis





lends some weight to the argument that the quality of the professional league one plays in, need not always directly reflect the quality of the player. In August, Canada's back-row is likely to feature names like Aaron Carpenter, Sean Michael Stephen and Stan McKeen; athletes who were not always available when Canada defeated the U.S.A. in 2009 World Cup qualifying. Advantage Canada.

In the half-back positions, the Americans would have at one time held the edge; however, the retirement of U.S.A. fly-half Mike Hercus has only highlighted the problems North American nations face with developing strength in depth. Despite having a pair of fully professional players to call on at the scrum-half position, the U.S.A. is left to field the talented but largely untested Tai Enosa at #10. Canada, by contrast, has been able to deal with the loss of their own star half-back Morgan Williams, by quickly training a core of young replacements with overseas experience of their own. Our model Canadian line-up features veteran Ed Fairhurst, backed-up by RGC 1404 star Sean White. Canada's fly-half, Ander Monro, will surely be looking to make 2011 the highlight of his own, largely professional, career. Our look at the half-back positions across both teams gives Canada a slight advantage.

In the centres, Canada fields two players linked with top-tier professional sides. Phil Mackenzie has a dual

contract with both Esher and London Wasps, while DTH Van der Merwe is among the top try scorers in the Magners League. American veteran centre Paul Emerick has managed to secure a short-term contract at Ulster, but the clear advantage in professional-level skill and experience here must be Canada's.

It is in the back three that the U.S.A. recover some of their clout. With the N.C.A.A. system at their disposal, American selectors have no shortage of speed on which to call in their developmental programs. Their line-up boasts names like Chris Wyles, Kevin Swiryn and the always dangerous Takudzwa Ngwenya. All of these athletes play regularly for top tier professional clubs in France, and together they form a sharp cutting-edge for any American backline attack.

A more general analysis sees the U.S.A. line-up boasting no less than 11 players plying their trade in top-tier professional leagues; those defined as the highest competitions within a top rugby nation. They continue with three more professionals holding places with clubs in the second-tier, and include three more players competing with elite overseas university teams. Only four domestically-based athletes crack our model U.S.A. Eagles squad.

For Canada, the number of athletes holding down places in top-tier competitions is significantly less. Only four Canadians play regularly for top European clubs; with Ryan



THE RUGBY CANADA  
**PRO REPORT**

Smith being a fifth possible since, although he now trains in Canada, most of his professional experience came at the elite level. A further 14 Canadians play for second-tier teams, or have done so very recently. Stan McKeen remains the only Canadian in our model line-up playing elite university rugby, while this roster matches the U.S.A. with four largely domestically-based athletes.

**W**hile Canada may currently have a slight edge in skill level across the field, The United States is placing an increasing amount of talent on top-tier professional sides; a fact that may indicate the sleeping giant of world rugby is beginning to wake up.

The bottom line is that North American professional rugby players will always have to better than the European standing next to them at training camp, due to the limitations and quotas placed on "imports" from overseas. Our conclusion is that Canada can take pride in the athlete development it has done in this four-year World Cup cycle; however, observers of rugby will be keenly interested to chart the growth in the number professionals coming from both of these important rugby nations by the time the world comes together again in 2015. Can Canada keep pace with their American rivals in the years to come? Only time will tell.

As for the upcoming clash in Toronto this summer; we at The Pro Report cautiously predict a 15-point Canadian margin of victory. Hope to see you all there! **RDic**

*Jeff Hull is a freelance rugby writer who has been covering the sport since 2007. His Rugby Canada Pro Report can be read weekly on the website of Rugby Canada, and in every edition of Rugby Day In Canada Magazine.*



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY AT BMO FIELD

# CANADA VS USA

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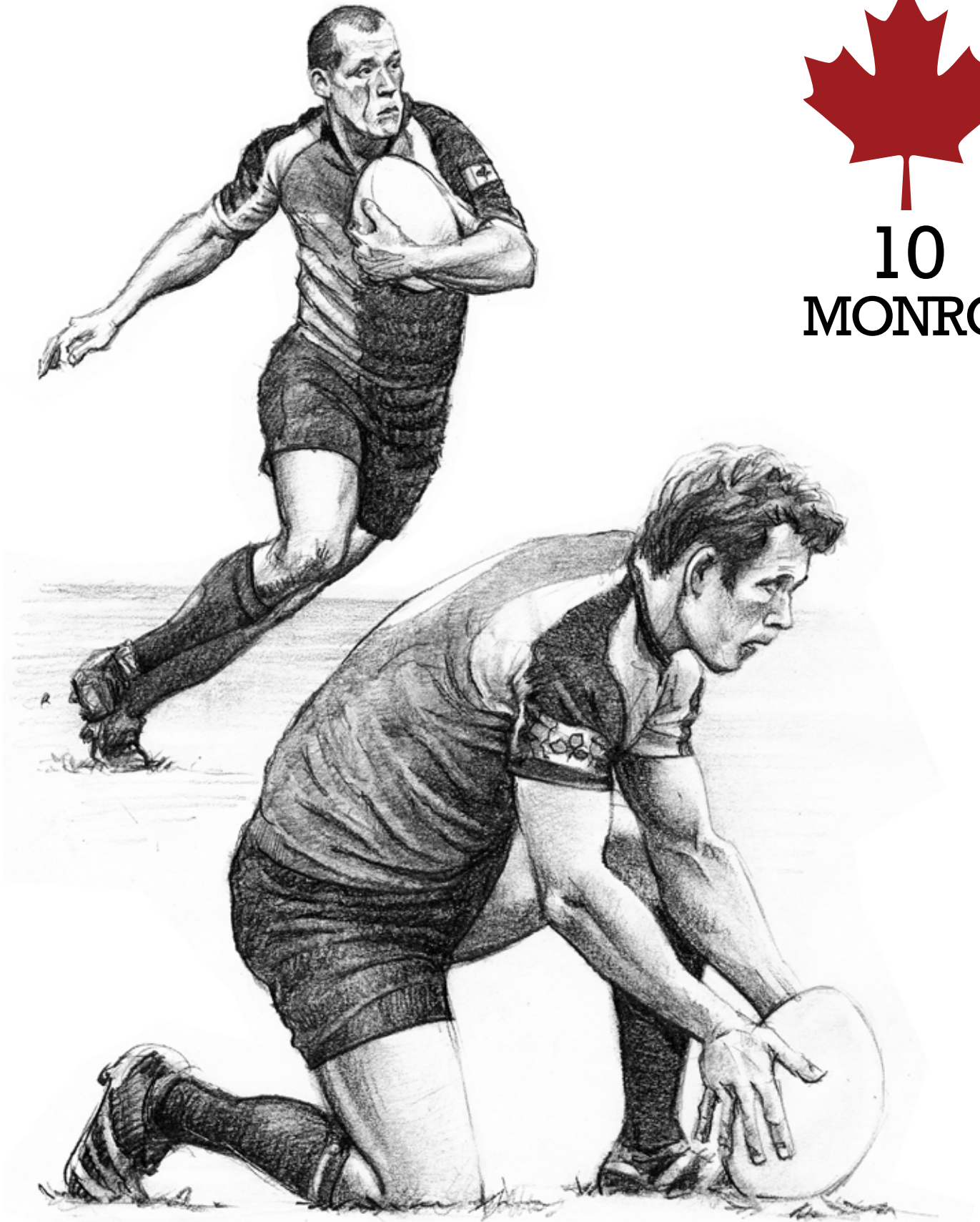
- Mar 11-12 : National Invitational University Sevens
- Jun 25-28 : Canadian Rugby Fishing Challenge
- Jun 29-Jul 3 : National Women's League Finals
- Jul 23 : National Junior Championship
- Jul 30 - Sep 3 : Canadian Rugby Championship Series
- Jul 31 - Aug 14 : Nation's Cup : Senior Women
  
- Aug 4 : Toronto World Cup Golf Tournament
- Aug 4 : Toronto World Cup Send Off Dinner
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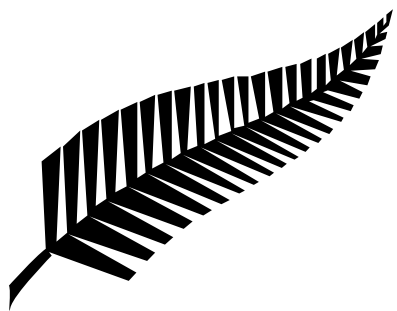


10  
MONRO



*Carter and Monro illustrations by Allan Youl (New Zealand)  
Additional artwork by Garth Sergeantson*

*Youl-11*



10  
CARTER



# BLOOD SPORT

*By Jeff Hull*

On October 2nd, Canada #10 Ander Monro and New Zealand #10 Dan Carter will have more than rugby in their minds as they face each other in the pitch at the Rugby World Cup 2011 in Wellington, NZ.

On a clear New Zealand Saturday, in June of 2007, the athletes of Canada's National Senior Men's team were preparing to do battle in the game of their lives. The World Cup in France was only months away, but they were about to undertake a challenge just as immense. Watching from the sidelines that day, was their Scottish-raised fly-half Ander Monro. Having been penciled out of the line-up for the key fixture of that New Zealand tour, Monro was left to contemplate that sad fact that his missed opportunity may never come again.

The negotiations, dealings and lobbying surrounding the awarding of the 2011 IRB World Cup had finally come to an end, and New Zealand had been awarded the tournament. Several teams within the Americas, who were on voting panel, soon magically found themselves with All Black test matches on their tour schedules. The young Canadian squad had been waiting patiently for a chance to take on the mythical All Blacks on their home ground; and for Monro, despite missing out on the All Blacks fixture, it was an opportunity to play in a country which owed his family a huge debt of gratitude.

It was Charles Monro, an all-important relative of Ander's, that had imported the sport of rugby to New Zealand, in 1870. Almost 140 years later, Ander Monro would tour New Zealand with the #14th ranked Canadians, and watch as his teammates took on the sport's most storied team. Canada, for a time, would shock the world.

Ander Monro looked on as New Zealand's famous fly-half, Dan Carter, guided his team out to an early lead, in what everyone assumed was going to be an incredibly one-sided affair. Carter's technique was familiar to Monro. While he was beginning his career with the Edinburgh Gunners of the Magners League, Ander was afforded the opportunity to learn from Dan Carter's kicking coach, the legendary Mick "The Kick" Byrne. Now, from the sidelines in Waikato Stadium, Monro watched as Carter led yet another All Black charge downfield. And then it came; the infamous intercept pass, soon to become a part of every Canadian highlight reel, in which winger Mike Pyke outraced Sitiveni Sivivatu go me-

ters to touch down under the posts. It was Canada's only try of the match, but for the moment it had given the Canadians new life. Eyes around the world stared in awe at scoreboards, which showed the young Canadians trailing the All Blacks by only 6 points, as half-time approached.

The seemingly unstoppable All Blacks had beaten France 61 - 10 just two weeks earlier; and although New Zealand went on to beat Canada by almost the exact same margin, the first-half was a period of time that would live long in the memory of the players involved, as well as their fans. It was a moral victory that put a smile on the face of every Canadian supporter. Canada, with Monro back at #10, would actually go on to beat an All Blacks development squad a few days later, to end their tour on a winning note.

Ander Monro knew that these were memories to cherish. The rugby gods being as fickle as they are, there was no way of guaranteeing that he would visit New Zealand again with Canada's 2011 World Cup squad. It seemed as though there was little chance of facing off with the likes of Dan Carter again in his career. The opportunity had come and gone.

*"The 2007 New Zealand tour was definitely more of a business trip for me, as I was busy trying to reclaim the number 10 jersey. It was a pretty short trip with just the Test match and a game against U21 All Blacks. I was hugely disappointed that I had to watch the Test match from the sidelines, but was really proud of our boys on the day who managed to keep it tight in the first-half. It's phenomenal to see how much the game means over there, and playing against their Under-21 team was a tough match and a special experience."*

As it happens, the luck of the draw and a lot of hard work made sure Ander Monro and Dan Carter would, in fact, be given the opportunity to face each other again. Canada was placed into Pool A of the 2011 World Cup; alongside New Zealand, France, Tonga and Japan.

Back in Canada, Monro was busy making Canada's #10 shirt his own, a task which all agree he completed by leading his nation to a famous victory over France "A" at the



# BLOOD



2010 Churchill Cup. That clash featured a fly-half duel between Monro and French star Lionel Beauxis.

The performance of each fly-half in the ensuing months cemented both Monro and Carter in their respective #10 jerseys, and set the stage for a possible rematch in Wellington, where Canada will once again battle the All Blacks on October 2nd, in the Pool A finale.

*"Surely most International teams would want to play against the All Blacks, and especially those, like ourselves, who rarely get the chance. At the 2011 Rugby World Cup though, we get another crack at them. A lot can happen between now and then, but hopefully I'll have the opportunity to 'lace them up' and as my teammates say: 'just give!'"*

When the two step on the field, it will be with a new sense of connection that has caught the attention of many across three different rugby nations. In 2010, Mr. Alastair Gaisford, a descendant of Charles Monro in New Zealand, was hard at work preparing to help erect a life-sized bronze statue of his famous ancestor in front of the New Zealand Rugby Museum. His efforts to highlight his clan's obvious importance to world rugby caused him to dive further into the family history, and what a history it is.

*"Inexplicably, 140 years after Charles Monro had returned from England to Nelson, in 1870, totally committed to introducing rugby as the new winter game of his home country, New Zealand still had no official recognition of a Monro being the father of rugby, long its national sport. So what better time to permanently memorialise him than during Rugby World Cup 2011?"*

*"During the project, I was prompted by a childhood memory of an important Scottish rugby relative having visited us, in the 1970's."*

Mr. Gaisford's research went on to discover that the relatives of Charles Monro, who remained in Scotland, went on to produce an entire line of rugby heroes, including Ander's grandfather, Lord Hec-

tor Monro; an elite Scottish player, selector for the Scottish national team and a President of the Scottish Rugby Union. With famous members of New Zealand, Scottish and Canadian rugby in their ranks, the Monro clan is surely already one of the sport's most accomplished families, but it seems acquisitions are still being made. And if you are going to go out and add to your clan's list of rugby legends, why not try for the best?

In a short time, New Zealand's own Dan Carter is due to wed his fiancée Honor Dillon, who is a great-grandchild of Constance Monro, the little sister of New Zealand's founding rugby father. And so it goes that two of the world's elite international #10's, soon to be cousins by marriage, will likely take the field against one another in one of the globe's biggest sporting events, and do battle in true Monro clan fashion. Somewhere Charles and Hector will surely be tuned in to the game.

Four Monro generations after Charles Monro's individual founding efforts, a 'rugby royal battle' will soon be waged between the latest rugby Monro stars, at last looked upon by a befitting statue of Charles Monro in his home country. A recognition long overdue, is at last rightly and permanently memorialised. And what is equally exciting is that clan war, at its best, looms on the Wellington rugby field on October 2nd; living up to the Monro clan motto: "Dread Fear".

In that same window of time, the New Zealand side of the Monro clan will be hosting a world-wide family reunion to celebrate the unveiling of Charles Monro's statue at the New Zealand Rugby Museum. With Canadian, Scottish and New Zealand accents sure to be heard, what a spectacle it will all make.

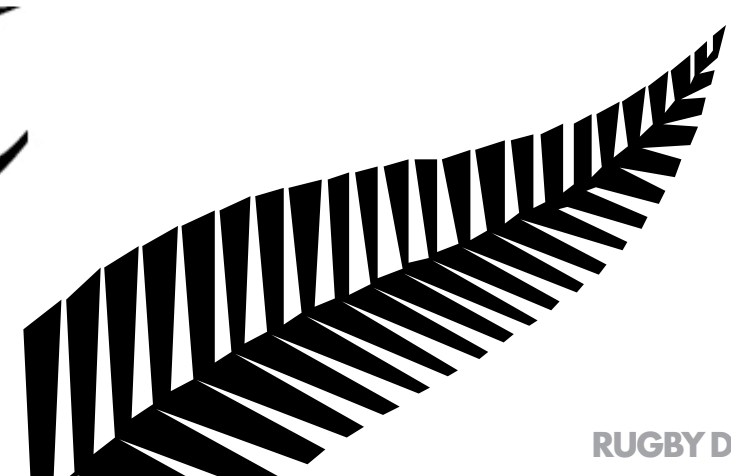
In the meantime, Ander and his Canadian teammates, with perhaps slightly less pressure upon them than Carter and his All Blacks, will be training hard to

make sure their part in the 2011 world showcase does not disappoint.

Surely, a Monro would have it no other way. **RDIC**



# SPORT





# RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011

Whangarei

## Canada in action in New Zealand

### Canada vs. Tonga

Sep 14, Wed 5pm | Northland Events Centre, Whangarei

### Canada vs. France

Sep 18, Sun 8:30pm | McLean Park, Napier

### Canada vs. Japan

Sep 27, Tue 5:00pm | McLean Park, Napier

### Canada vs. New Zealand

Oct 2, Sun 3:30pm | Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington

For complete match schedules, visit:  
[www.rugbyworldcup.com](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com)

Wellington

Napier





# CANADA SUPPORTERS GUIDE TO RWC 2011

By Shane Jost, [www.nztrip2011.com](http://www.nztrip2011.com)

**Kia Ora fellow Rugby Canada supporters!**

If you are fortunate enough to be traveling to New Zealand this fall following our national team as they take part in the 2011 Rugby World Cup, you will surely want to be acquainted with the regions you will be visiting. And if you are at home in Canada watching the games, you might be interested in knowing what happens behind the scenes when the games aren't being played.

Canada plays its four pool games in three regions: Northland (Whangarei), Hawke's Bay (Napier) and Wellington. Each region has special events planned for us Canadians as we travel around the North Island of New Zealand following our Canadian squad.

**Northland - Awanui, Kaitaia, Ngataki, Paihia, Russell, Waipu, Waitangi, Whangarei**

Canada play Tonga in their first game of the 2011 Rugby World Cup tournament on September 14th, 2011. The host city for this game is Whangarei which is situated about 160 kms north of Auckland and it is joined by other communities of the Northland region in a New Zealand wide celebration called Real New Zealand Festival.

Real New Zealand Festival is the celebration of rugby and New Zealand through cultural, arts, rugby, and food and wine events. These events will be the opportunity for us Canadians to interact with the local Northland communities as they showcase this region. Here is a brief list of communities hosting events and a description of the event; all of these events take place in and around game day:

**Kaitaia, Awanui, Ngataki** - experience the delectable food of the Far North and see the amazing cultural displays from many nations.

**Paihia** - beach, water and community activities showcasing the kiwi beach lifestyle and Northland at its best - selection of activities from sandcastle building competitions, to top team obstacle courses.

**Paihia, Russell, Waitangi** - A touch rugby competition comprising of games played throughout the Bay of Islands. All welcome to enroll and play.

**Paihia** - A Kapa Haka festival, traditional Māori kite flying and traditional Māori games such as Ki-o-Rahi will feature on the program.

**Waipu** - the Celtic Heart of Northland has strong ties with Canada as its historic past hails from Nova Scotia when 800 Scottish-Canadians settled in Waipu in the 1850s. You can expect to hear pipes and drums from the Waipu Highland Band, Highland Dancing, food and I am hoping they will play a game of rugby in kilts; as this game is played during Waipu's Tartan Week held in July each year.

Mid Western RSC of Whangarei has invited Canadian players to bring their rugby kit to New Zealand for a friendly match between their team and the hodge podge of Canadian players that are up for the match. The game will be an early evening game on September 13th, 2011, the day before the Canada-Tonga match. James Merry of Mid Western RSC said, "We'll adjust the strength of our team to make a good game of it - even if it turns out to be an old boys game." Food will be served to all of those who attend the game; players and spectators. You can contact James directly at [jnmerry@icqmail.com](mailto:jnmerry@icqmail.com)

For more information on this game, check out the forum link at the bottom of this article. This might not be the only game so put your name down if you are interested in playing and watch to see if other clubs put out calls for friendships as well.

### **Hawke's Bay - Cape Kidnappers, Central Hawke's Bay, Clive, Hastings, Napier, Wairoa**

This is where Canada will unofficially be adopted as the region's home team for RWC 2011 with the only two games played in Napier both involving Canada. Napier is located 420 kms southeast of Auckland on the Pacific Ocean coastline. The first of Canada's games here is played on September 18th, 2011 against Japan and the second game is played against France on September 27th, 2011. For 15 nights; Canada will be based here and experiencing Hawke's Bay's warm and friendly hospitality.

Hawke's Bay version of the Real New Zealand Festival is called Havingaball Festival 2011. The festival kicks off with the opening of the RWC and more importantly for Canadian supporters, the party begins on September 15th with team Canada's arrival and an informal greet at the airport. An official Civic Welcome is slated for the following day.

Here are some events to look out for:

**Hastings** - Takitimu Festival is an international arts and culture festival celebrating the people of the Taktimu Waka (Aotearoa, Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, Rarotonga and

Fiji). The festival is a celebration of Maori tradition through fun, song, dance and oratory and runs from September 15th - 18th, 2011.

**Hastings** - Hastings Blossom Festival will host a parade celebrating the arrival of spring and the wonderful Hawke's Bay produce that arises from this season. The parade dates back to the 50s and is a distinctive event for the region. The Hastings Blossom Festival continues the following Friday with Hot Pink, a charity event that feature's Hawke's Bay rosé wines. Saturday, the New Zealand Olive Festival celebrates all things olive, along with fine wine and good food. On Sunday the Hastings Farmers' market delivers all sorts of fresh goodies.

**Napier** - Napier is known as the Art Deco capital of the world and it loves to celebrate its past. Tours are available on September 17th and 18th of historic sites around Napier as well as a wine tasting at two renowned New Zealand vineyards. Bookings can be made at the Art Deco Shop, Tennyson St., Napier.



**Napier** - I believe the real party will start and end at what is called the Soundshell. This is an Art Deco inspired amphitheatre where starting in late afternoon you will be able to buy drinks and food and relax in stylish surroundings and talking rugby far into the night. For a lucky few there will be available a transfer to and from McLean Park for the games and it seems that you might be toted off in a vintage automobile as well.

**Napier** - Have your picture taken with The Big Ball. The Big Ball will be a 10 metre high rugby ball made out of live grass. You can enter the bottom, climb up steps to have your picture taken and immediately be given a digital version of

the photo.

**Hastings** - Epicurious is a new weekend event that will expose you to Hawke's Bay cuisine, wine and entertainment. During this weekend the party life peaks with the Hot Pink Charity Cocktail Party, New Zealand Olive Festival and the Hawke's Bay Farmers' market. Tickets are necessary for some of these events.

**Central Hawke's Bay, Clive** - Join with regional rugby clubs as the locals treat visitors to a friendly game of rugby, lessons in how to do the haka, and some Hangi; traditional maori food cooked with hot rocks underground. This will be a wonderful chance to meet and interact with local rug-

by fans and to learn about the real people who make up the rugby fraternity in New Zealand.

## Wellington

This is where the game we Canadian rugby supporters dream of will be played. Canada goes up against the All Blacks in the last of Canada's pool games on October 2, 2011. Even the Kiwis know the importance of this game for Canada and Kevin Tkachuk, as it is his retiring match against the All Blacks. Wellington also hosts two quarter final games after this match and if you didn't get tickets to the final in Auckland you can party in the fan zones and watch the game on big screens down by the waterfront.

Wellington is located in the southern part of the North Island and roughly about 320 kms away from Napier. Ferry service to the South Island of New Zealand originates here in Wellington with a three-hour voyage across the Cook Strait. Wellington is a compact city with restaurants, bars, museums all within a half hour walk of Wellington Regional Stadium. The atmosphere in the city during the Rugby World Cup is sure to be on the verge of frenzy.

There seems to be some secrecy to two large events that will take place in Wellington. All I got on one of these events is this; 'a special Rugby World Cup themed exhibitions at Te Papa'. Te Papa is New Zealand's National Museum of Art, History, Pacific, Māori, and Natural Environment.

The Wairarapa Vintage Wings and Wine Festival taking place on October 7 & 10, 2011. Wairarapa is Wellington's wine region, located less than 90 minutes north by train, car or coach. Best known for its Pinot Noir and for film director Peter Jackson keeping a lot of his planes there! On display will be a selection of some of the world's rarest vintage aircraft and areas where you can sample wines of the region and food prepared by top Kiwi Chefs.

And if you didn't know already; Peter Jackson's new film "The Hobbit" is slated to start production this month. Keep your eyes out for some of the Baggins folk!

You can browse a collection of 100 images of great All Blacks moments, games and players over a 60-year period. The Hard on the Heels exhibition is at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea from September 3 - November 6, 2011, 10am — 5pm daily.

Beyond these events there is sure to be much more announcements made in the months leading up to the RWC. Be sure to make your way to the Wellington water-

front where you will find the following attractions:

- a world rugby village
- giant outdoor screens with live match broadcasts
- circus and street performers, dancers and cultural groups
- multiple stages with live bands and DJs
- public training sessions

While in Wellington, the training venue for Canada will be Porirua Park.

## Canadian Rugby Supporters Kit

As a true Canadian rugby supporter some of you will be showcasing the new Rugby Canada Kooga jersey that was recently announced this fall. Some of you might be donning nostalgic kit from years gone by. Loud and proud will be the flavour of the day when cheering on our team and a few wobbly pops will help in getting us there. Faces will be painted with maple leaves and flags will be waving high. The best thing is to be creative, follow the rules (we want you to make it in the gates), cheer loudly and celebrate the game with your neighbour whether from near or far, opponent or friend!

## Resources

For a list of what you can't bring to the games visit this link: <http://tickets.rugbyworldcup.com/pdf/RWC2011VenueRegulations.pdf>

### Northland

<http://www.northland2011.com/>

### Hawke's Bay

<http://havingaball2011.com/>

### Wellington

<http://www.wellingtonnz2011.com/>

### Rugby game for Canadians in New Zealand

<http://tinyurl.com/64gmo26>

## Shane Jost, [www.nztrip2011.com](http://www.nztrip2011.com)

Shane was introduced to rugby at the age of 25 and played games with the Fredericton Loyalists and St. John Trojans while living in New Brunswick in the 1990s. He played for only three years but has always thought of rejoining. This year he is traveling with his daughter and friends and their extended families to New Zealand for the RWC. His daughter is seven and will start playing mini-rugby this spring in Calgary where he now lives. **RDIC**



# Canadian Rugby Foundation

Investing in the *Future* of Canadian Rugby

The **Canadian Rugby Foundation** invites you to attend the 6th Annual Great Canadian Sevens Luncheon at the Cathay Pacific / Credit Suisse Hong Kong Sevens March 25 -27, 2011.

- Cathay Pacific packages including direct return flight and 3-day tournament pass starting at:  
-Vancouver - \$1357 +  
-Toronto - \$1599 +  
\*(Hotel packages and business-class packages also available)

- Contact the Canadian Rugby Foundation for more details on special packages and events.  
(Flight & 3-day tournament pass)

Come and meet our National Men's & Women's National Sevens Teams and watch them compete at one of the best Sevens Tournaments in the World.



[info@canadianrugbyfoundation.ca](mailto:info@canadianrugbyfoundation.ca)



(250) 386-5350



**CANADIAN RUGBY FOUNDATION**

[www.canadianrugbyfoundation.ca](http://www.canadianrugbyfoundation.ca)

# The Canadian Rugby Fishing Challenge

Langara Fishing Lodge - June 25 - 28, 2011



The World Fishing Classic  
raised over \$140,000.00  
for Age Grade rugby in Canada.

## Prizes

- 1st Prize: \$10,000 Largest Salmon**
- 2nd Prize: \$3,000 2nd Largest Salmon**
- 3rd Prize: \$2,000 3rd Largest Salmon**

## Plus!

- Over \$25,000 in cash & prizes!**
- Largest Daily Salmon Prize: \$1,000 x 3 days**
- Halibut Prize: \$2,000**
- Langara Lodge & Rugby Canada trips, clothing and prizes valued over \$5,000**

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- 1 Night Accommodation and Guest Reception at Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel June 24th
- 4 Days / 4 Nights Experience
- Queen Charlotte Heli-Venture to Langara Fishing Lodge
- Fabulous Cuisine and Hospitality of Langara Fishing Lodge
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- Tax Receipt upon request

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and Howard Aldous



A unique fishing experience  
in pristine waters



Langara Fishing Lodge



Rugby Canada is making a renewed commitment to develop Canada's elite Men's and Women's 7's Rugby Programs. The future results of Canada's Olympics hopefuls in 2016 and beyond will be largely based on the growth and development of all the athletes participating in this discipline of Rugby Union. All proceeds from this exciting "Rugby Fishing Challenge" will directly benefit the young athletes that proudly wear the Maple Leaf on the rugby field. Through your support, you too can play a part in making sure that these young athletes are the best prepared, fittest and strongest rugby 7's players that Canada can field.

**For more information and to book your place, please visit**  
**[www.rugbycanada.ca/fishingadventure.htm](http://www.rugbycanada.ca/fishingadventure.htm) or call (905)780-8998 ext 240**  
**or [www.langara.com](http://www.langara.com) or call (800) 668-7544**

In order to confirm your commitment to Canadian 7's Rugby, a \$1,000 deposit will reserve your spot!



McMASTER AND WESTERN BATTLE IT OUT AT THE OUA FINALS, 2010 | JRL



# THE ART OF RUGBY

Photography round-up from coast to coast









# **BARNARD CUP, BC**

Vancouver Island Finals | by Hugh Jervis



UVIC AND JAMES BAY IN THE VANCOUVER ISLAND FINALS, 2010 | ALL PHOTOS BY HUGH JERVIS



# BARNARD CUP, BC

Photos by Hugh Jervis

# BARNARD CUP, BC

Photos by Hugh Jervis







# VANCOUVER FINALS

Lower Mainland Finals | by Karen Henrikson



UBCOB vs MERALOMAS AT VANCOUVER FALL FINALS, 2010 | KAREN HENRIKSON





# McCORMICK CUP, ON





BARBS AND CRU AT THE ONTARIO FINALS, 2010 | ALL PHOTOS BY JRL





# McCORMICK CUP, ON



BARBS AND CRU AT THE ONTARIO FINALS, 2010 | ALL PHOTOS BY JRL



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# McCORMICK CUP, ON





# ONTARIO

McMASTER vs.



# UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

WESTERN at the OUA 2010 Finals | Photos by JRL





# OUA FINALS, ON









# OUA FINALS, ON





McMASTER vs. WESTERN at OUA FINALS, 2010 | ALL PHOTOS BY JRL



# OUA FINALS, ON

McMASTER vs. WESTERN at OUA FINALS, 2010 | ALL PHOTOS BY JRL







# OUA FINALS

Mac vs. Western, 2010 | Photos by JRL



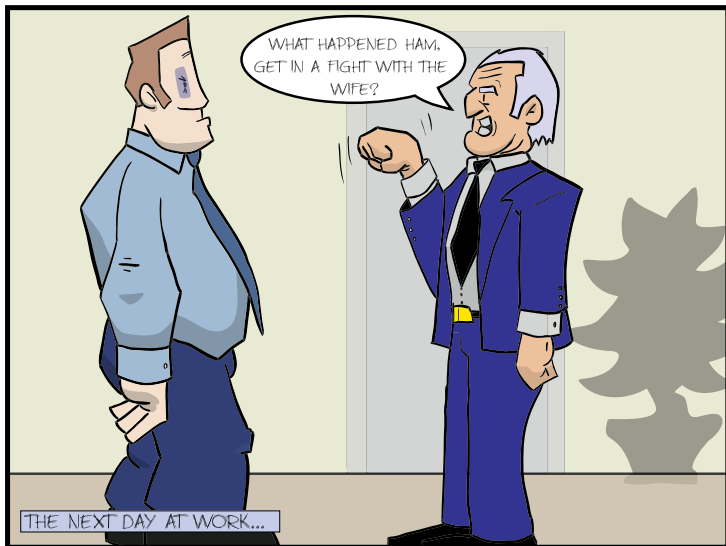


TWICK & HAM  
PRESENT

# BLOOD MUD AND BEER UPS

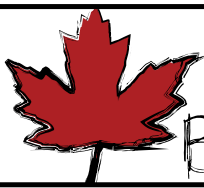
COMIC #0001

SUBMITTED BY: DICK PRINGLE, MARKHAM RFC



Send us your rugby stories so we can make them into a Twick and Ham strip.  
Email: [Kserjeantson@rogers.com](mailto:Kserjeantson@rogers.com) OR  
Visit: [www.twickandham.ca](http://www.twickandham.ca)



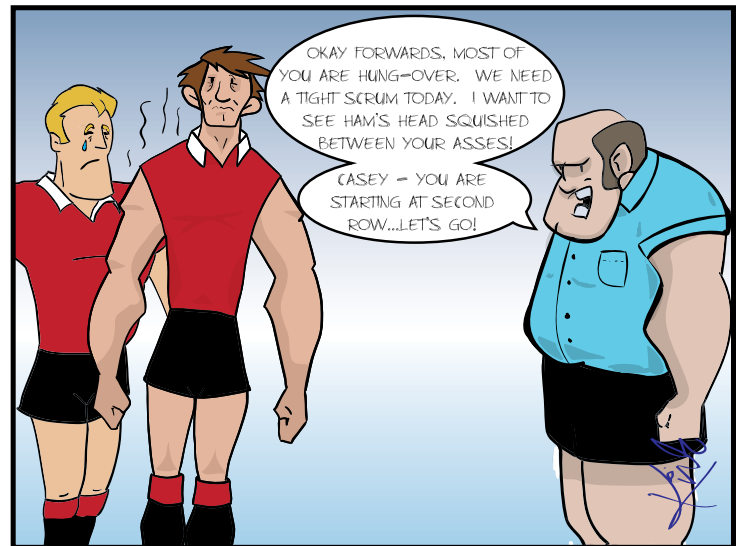
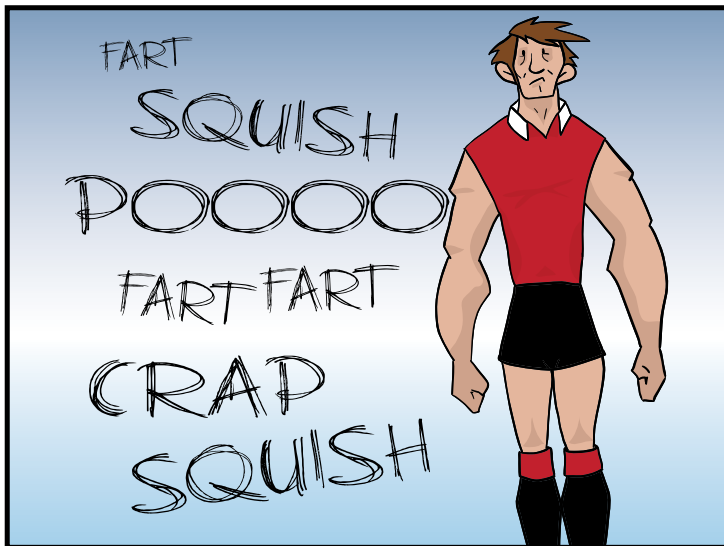
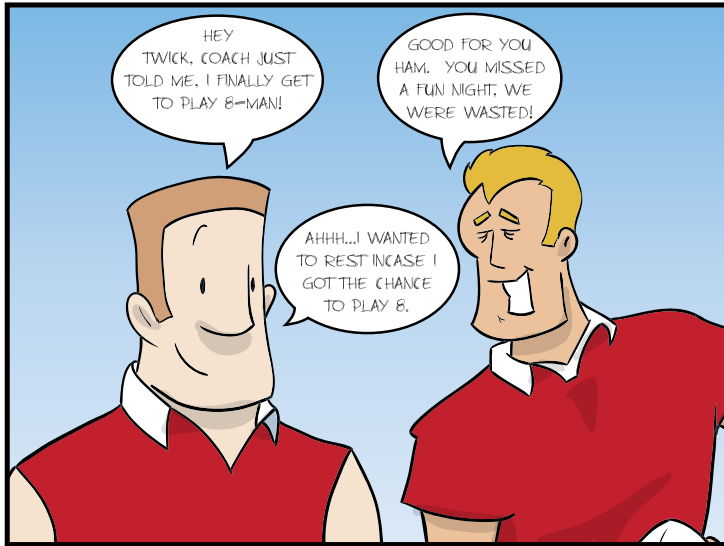


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# BLOOD MUD AND BEER UPS

COMIC #0002

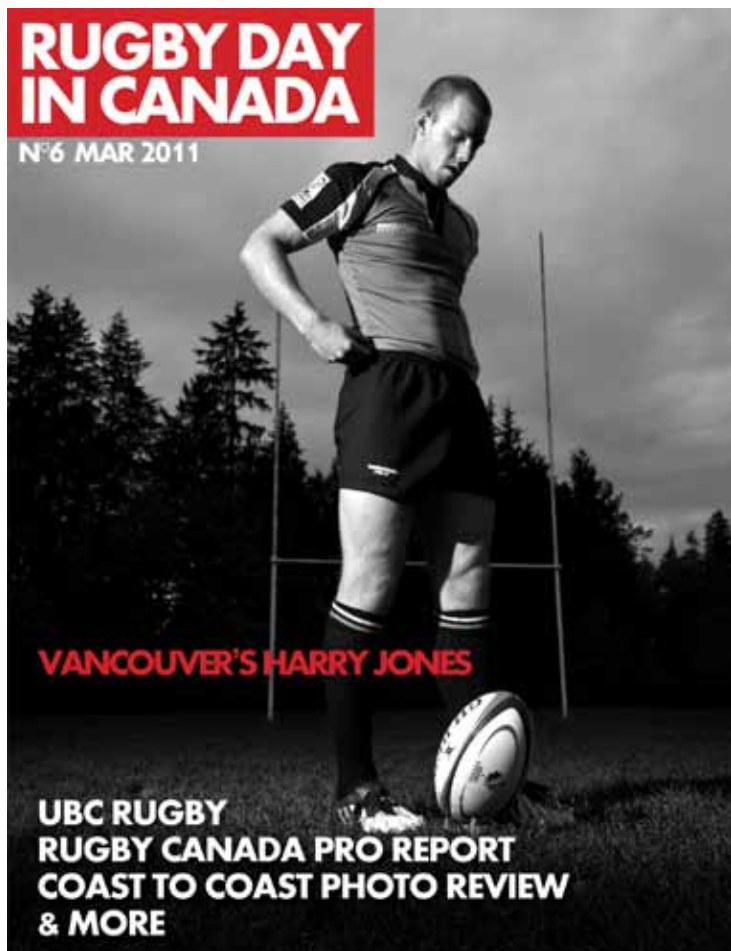
SUBMITTED BY: MARK SHEPHERD, NORTH HALTON RFC



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# RUGBY DAY IN CANADA

N°6 MAR 2011



VANCOUVER'S HARRY JONES

UBC RUGBY  
RUGBY CANADA PRO REPORT  
COAST TO COAST PHOTO REVIEW  
& MORE

## RUGBY DAYS IN FEB

IRB USA Sevens - Feb 12-13 (Las Vegas, NV)  
Canada Sevens Camp - East - Feb 25-27 (Toronto, ON)

## RUGBY DAYS IN MAR

National University Sevens - Mar 11-12 (Vancouver, BC)  
Truro Sevens - Mar 11-13 (Truro, NS)  
Prairies Region Churchill Cup Coaching & Refereeing  
Conference - Mar 12-13, Olds College (Olds, AB)  
Atlantic Churchill Cup Coaching & Refereeing  
Conference - Mar 19-20, St. Mary's U (Halifax, NS)  
IRB HongKong Sevens - Mar 25-27 (HongKong)

## RUGBY DAYS IN APR

TRY FOR A CURE fundraiser - Apr 9 (Toronto, ON)  
Contact the Toronto Nomads RFC for details  
RUGBY RUMBLE II fundraiser - Apr 9 (Toronto, ON)  
Contact the Toronto Scottish RFC for details  
BC Boys High School Sevens Tournament - Apr 16-17  
St. George's School (Vancouver, BC)  
Annual Royal Military College vs. US Naval Academy rugby  
friendly - Easter Weekend (Annapolis, MD) - TBC

## << NEXT ISSUE

### Issue N°6 Mar 2011:

Features: Vancouver's Harry Jones  
UBC Rugby  
USA Sevens Game Pics  
Rugby Canada Pro Report  
Twick & Ham  
Photography round-up from coast to coast  
and much more!

*Tentative release date is late March 2011.*

## CALL for SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions of photos and articles about rugby in Canada, especially those coming from smaller towns and cities.

Articles should include legit references and footnotes for data checking prior to publication. They can be in English ou en français.

Digital photographs should be submitted uncropped and in low-resolution (72ppi). If they are selected, the high-resolution (300ppi) versions will be requested.

Please email submissions to:

[RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com](mailto:RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com)

## APPEL à SOUMISSION

Notre objectif à long terme est de faire du présent magazine une publication bilingue.

Nous invitons donc les amateurs francophones de rugby, particulièrement nos amis québécois, à soumettre des articles en français sur leurs équipes, villes et régions. Merci!

Veuillez transmettre vos soumissions par courriel à :

[RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com](mailto:RugbyDayInCanada@gmail.com)



# AWESOMELY CANADIAN

Kelly Russell of the Toronto Nomads RFC, UWO Mustangs, and Canada's National Senior Women's Team [15s and 7s]  
Photographed by JRL at BMO Field in Toronto, ON | August 2010



THE PARIS BROTHERS AT HOME, 2011 | JRL

**FROM BARRIE**



TAY PARIS SCORING FOR CANADA AT THE USA 75, 2011 | JRL

**TO VEGAS**

*It's*  
**RUGBY DAY IN CANADA**