

## LOS ANGELES NOTES

- This HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series returns to Los Angeles for the first time since 2006, and the fourth time overall.
  - Los Angeles was the first USA city to host the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in 2004 before the event relocated to San Diego for three seasons between 2007-09, and then Las Vegas for 10 seasons between 2010-19.
  - Argentina lifted the inaugural Cup trophy on American soil in 2004, with New Zealand winning in 2005, and England the defending champions in Los Angeles from the last tournament here in 2006.
- USA have won their home tournament in each of the past two seasons, and are looking to become only the third team in Sevens Series history to record a three-peat on home soil after New Zealand achieved this in Wellington between 2003-05 and 2014-16, and South Africa in Port Elizabeth/Cape Town between 2014-16.
  - No team has won three straight Cup titles at a Sevens Series event in the United States, with South Africa and Fiji both going back to back in Las Vegas.
- South Africa are the most successful team in USA with a record four Cup titles.
- Eight nations have contested the Cup final in America (New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, South Africa, England, Australia and Argentina) but only Australia have never lifted the trophy.
- New Zealand have played the most Cup finals in the United States of any team, reaching this stage eight occasions, but winning just two Cup titles overall, in Los Angeles in 2005 and San Diego in 2008.
- Samoa's **Mikaele Pesamino** and South Africa's **Seabelo Senatla** share the record for most individual tries in a tournament in the United States, with Pesamino scoring 11 tries in Las Vegas in 2010, and then Senatla equalling this effort in 2016.
  - England's **Dave Strettle** holds the record for most tries in Los Angeles, scoring nine in 2006.
- The leading try-scorer at each of the past two events in America has been an Eagles Sevens player, with **Perry Baker** top scoring with eight tries in 2018, and **Carlin Isles** with eight tries last season.
- Kenya's **Collins Injera** holds the Sevens Series record for most Sevens Series tries scored in the United States with 45, including a joint-record three hat-tricks, and six doubles.
- New Zealand's **Orene Ai'i** and England's **Ben Gollings** share the record for the most Sevens Series points in a single tournament in the United States, with Gollings scoring 61 points in Los Angeles in 2004 and then Ai'i equalling this effort in 2005.
- Fiji hold the record for the most tries at a tournament in the United States, scoring 34 in San Diego in 2007. No team has been able to score 30 or more tries at a tournament in America since New Zealand in San Diego in 2008.
  - The past 11 Sevens Series events on American soil have seen the top try-scoring team score 26 or less tries.

- Seven different teams have medalled inside the opening four events this season, two more than at the same stage last season, and the most since 2015-16.
- No player has scored 10 or more tries in a single event for the past two seasons. This streak of 32 consecutive tournaments is the longest in Series history.

### Past champions in USA

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL	WINNING MARGIN
2019	Las Vegas	USA	Samoa (27-0)	27
2018	Las Vegas	USA	Argentina (28-0)	28
2016-17	Las Vegas	South Africa	Fiji (19-12)	7
2015-16	Las Vegas	Fiji	Australia (21-15)	6
2014-15	Las Vegas	Fiji	New Zealand (35-19)	16
2013-14	Las Vegas	South Africa	New Zealand (14-7)	7
2012-13	Las Vegas	South Africa	New Zealand (40-21)	19
2011-12	Las Vegas	Samoa	New Zealand (26-19)	7
2010-11	Las Vegas	South Africa	Fiji (24-14)	10
2009-10	Las Vegas	Samoa	New Zealand (33-12)	21
2008-09	San Diego	Argentina	England (19-14)	5
2007-08	San Diego	South Africa	New Zealand (27-12)	15
2006-07	San Diego	Fiji	Samoa (38-24)	14
2005-06	Los Angeles	England	Fiji (38-5)	33
2004-05	Los Angeles	New Zealand	Argentina (34-5)	29
2003-04	Los Angeles	Argentina	New Zealand (21-12)	9

## KEY TEAM STATS

- **Argentina** won their maiden Cup title in Los Angeles in 2004, defeating New Zealand for the first time in 22 previous Sevens Series meetings.
  - They have played more Cup finals in the United States than any other single location on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series, with four previous appearances in 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2018.
  - They have not won a Sevens Series medal at any event since Las Vegas in 2018, earning silver after losing the Cup final 28-0.
  - They have topped their pool at each of the past three Sevens Series events in the United States.
  - They are retaining a competition-high 42.6 per cent of their restarts this season.
  - They are one of the most disciplined teams this season, conceding on average the second least penalties per game (2.3), including the least in two of the past three tournaments.
  - They are averaging the least offloads per game of any team this season with 2.3, including the least of any team in Cape Town (nine) and Sydney (five).
  - They will look to improve their ball retention after averaging the most handling errors of any team in Sydney with 9.3 per game, a 43 per cent increase on their season average prior to the tournament.
  - Argentina recorded their first win of the season against Pool A opponents France in Sydney after losing their first two meetings in Dubai and Cape Town. They are chasing consecutive victories in this fixture for the first time since London in 2017 and Sydney in 2018.
  - They will play Korea for the first time since Hong Kong in 2007. Their past four victories have all been by an average margin of 18 points.
  - Argentina have won both matches against Fiji this season, 24-21 in Dubai and 26-10 in Hamilton. This comes after winning just one of their previous 19 games between 2013-19. They are chasing three-straight victories in this fixture for the first time since 2003-04 in Dubai, Los Angeles and London.
- **Australia** have won two medals across their past six events, with silver in London last season, and bronze in Hamilton. Prior to London they had not medalled in 10-straight events since silver in Singapore in 2018.
  - They are the only team to have played a Cup final in USA but not lift the trophy, finishing runner-up in Las Vegas in 2016.
  - They enjoy the third highest success-rate of any team in front of goal this season, kicking 70 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - Australia are averaging the second-highest tackle completion rate of any team this season with 70.3 per cent.
  - Australia's discipline has improved across the past two tournaments, conceding on average 2.4 per game across Hamilton and Sydney compared to 4.9 per game across Dubai and Cape Town.

- Australia have won both matches this season against Pool C opponents Scotland by an average margin of 23 points. Last season they shared the wins evenly, with an average margin of nine points across all four games.
- Australia have won their past two, and five of their past seven matches against Samoa. However, they have won just one of seven games in this fixture on American soil, with their only victory coming in Las Vegas in 2018.
- Australia will be looking to bounce back from a record 36-point defeat against USA in Sydney, their largest loss in the history of this fixture.
  - In their 50<sup>th</sup> Sevens Series meeting, they lead the head-to-head 34 wins to 15, but have won just three of their past eight matches against the Eagles Sevens since the start of the 2018 Series.
- **Canada** have earned eight more competition points and sit one place higher on the standings in 2020 than they did at the same stage last season. Their fifth-place finish in Hamilton was their highest on the Sevens Series since Paris in 2018.
  - They have made the most offloads of any team in each of the past two events, with a tournament-high 27 in Hamilton and 29 in Sydney.
  - After kicking just 52 per cent of their conversion attempts across Dubai and Cape Town, they increased their accuracy in front of goal to 86 per cent in Hamilton and Sydney.
  - They have won their past three matches against Pool B opponents Ireland since Paris last season, with both victories this season by single figure margins.
  - Canada will be looking to end a 21-game losing streak against South Africa dating back to Las Vegas in 2013. Their only victory in nine previous matches against the Blitzboks in America came in Los Angeles in 2006.
  - Canada will play Kenya for the first time since their 19-0 loss in Hong Kong last season. This was only the second time in Sevens Series history they have been held scoreless in this fixture, and have never failed to score in consecutive games against the Kenyans.
- **England** are the defending champions in Los Angeles after winning the last Cup title in this city in 2006. They have not reached a Cup final on American soil since San Diego in 2009, or a Cup semi-final since Las Vegas in 2011.
  - They have been Cup semi-finalists three times in four events this season (Dubai, Hamilton and Sydney), the same amount as they played across the entire 2019 Series.
  - England scored 18 tries in Sydney, their joint-most in a tournament this season alongside Dubai.
  - England conceded a joint-most penalties in Sydney with 19.
  - England have topped their pool in the past two events, equalling their total from last season. They have not topped their pool in three-straight tournaments since 2016-17 in Singapore, Paris and London.
  - England are enjoying a 16-game winning streak against Pool D opponents Spain dating back to Dubai in 2012. They have restricted them to one try or less in the past three, and 14 of the past 16 matches in this streak.

- England meet Wales for the first time since their 12-0 loss in Singapore last season. They have not lost back-to-back matches in this fixture since 2011.
- England have won just two of their past 11 Sevens Series matches against New Zealand since the start of the 2018 season. This has been a tight fixture in recent times with the past 10 matches decided by a converted try or less.
  - They have never beaten New Zealand on American soil, being outscored 115-35 overall across their past six matches.
- **Fiji** have won three Cup titles on American soil, victorious in San Diego in 2007, and Las Vegas in 2015-16. Their six Cup final appearances overall are the second-most of any team behind New Zealand, but they have not reached this stage of the tournament since Las Vegas in 2017.
  - Fiji won their 42<sup>nd</sup> Cup title, and first of the season, in Sydney, climbing to fifth in the overall standings after sitting seventh following Hamilton.
  - They have medalled at four of the past five Sevens Series events in America, winning gold in 2015 and 2016, silver in 2017, and bronze in 2018.
  - They topped their pool in Sydney for the first time this season.
  - They are averaging the most offloads of any team this season with 6.5 per game, including a season-high 64 in Hamilton.
  - They scored 22 tries in Sydney, their second-most in a tournament this season. They have scored the third most tries overall of any team with 73.
  - After conceding 30 tries across Dubai and Cape Town, Fiji's defence has improved, conceding just 16 across Hamilton and Sydney, the second least of any team in the past two events after the All Blacks Sevens (14).
  - Fiji will meet Korea for the first time since 2016 in Hong Kong. They have won all six previous meetings by an average margin of 35 points, restricting the Koreans to one try or less in their past five matches.
  - Fiji lost their last meeting against France in the bronze final in Cape Town, ending a 15-game winning streak in this fixture. They have never lost consecutive matches against the French in Sevens Series history.
  - Fiji are yet to defeat Argentina this season, losing their pool matches in Dubai and Hamilton. They are the only opposition Fiji have lost more than one game against this series.
    - They have won their past six matches against Argentina in the United States, with their only loss coming in Los Angeles in 2004.
- **France** have earned four medals across their past nine events, and after winning bronze in Cape Town and silver in Hamilton, are chasing three medals in a single season for the first time in Sevens Series history.
  - They will be chasing their first Cup quarter-final appearance on American soil in five years. They won just one of their five matches in Las Vegas last season, finishing 15<sup>th</sup> overall.
  - They have topped their pool in three of the four events so far this season, but only once in 16 previous tournaments in America, in Las Vegas in 2014.

- They are averaging the second-least missed tackles per game this season with five, and the best tackle completion of any team with 71.3 per cent.
- After being undefeated nine of their first 10 pool matches of the season, with eight wins and a draw, they have lost their past two, both by 12 points.
- France will play Korea for the first time since Hong Kong in 2016. They have scored 40 or more points in each of their past two matches in this fixture.
- **Ireland** will play their first HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event in America.
  - They produced the biggest half-time comeback of the season in Sydney against Argentina. Trailing by 12 points at the break, they scored 21 unanswered in the second half to win the 7<sup>th</sup> place play-off 21-12.
  - They are enjoying the best accuracy of any team in front of goal this season, kicking 78 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - They produced their best defensive performance of the season in Sydney, conceding just 11 tries, their least in a tournament this series. They averaged the least missed tackles (3.8) and highest tackle completion rate (78 per cent) of any team.
  - Ireland will be looking to end a three-game losing streak against Canada dating back to Paris last season. They have never defeated Canada in a pool match, losing all three previous meetings at this stage of a tournament.
  - They are still chasing their first Sevens Series win against Kenya, with two losses in 2004-05 and a 24-24 draw in Cape Town this season.
- **Kenya** will look to end a five-game losing streak dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> place play-off in Hamilton. Prior to this run of defeats, they had only lost five games in total across Dubai, Cape Town and the pool stages in Hamilton.
  - They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal, kicking a competition-low 56 per cent of their conversion attempts this season.
  - After averaging 4.8 offloads per game heading into Sydney, they made just eight overall at an average of 2 per game, the second least of any team.
  - They are averaging the most handling errors per game of any team this season with 8.2, including the second-most of any team in Sydney with nine.
  - They will look to improve their discipline, averaging a competition-high four penalties per game.
  - Kenya ended a 14-game losing streak against South Africa in their last meeting in Hamilton, with a 36-14 victory in the pool stages. Their 22-point winning margin was their largest in Sevens Series history against the Blitzboks, and 36 points their highest total scored.
    - They have not won consecutive matches against South Africa since 2008-09 in Wellington and Adelaide.
- **Korea** are the invitational team this weekend and will make their 26<sup>th</sup> Sevens Series appearance. This will be their first HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series tournament since Hong Kong in 2018, and their first in the United States since Los Angeles in 2004.

- They have lost their past 24 Sevens Series matches, not tasting victory since Hong Kong in 2009 against Uruguay.
- They are chasing their first victories against two of their three Pool A opponents Fiji and France, with their only success against Argentina coming in Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2002.
  - They drew 12-12 against France the last time they met in Los Angeles in 2004.
- South Korea qualified for Tokyo 2020 by winning the Asia Rugby Olympic qualifier in Incheon last year, defeating tournament favourites Hong Kong 12-7 in extra-time.
- **New Zealand** won bronze in Las Vegas last season, their first Sevens Series medal on American soil since 2015.
  - They hold the record for most Cup final appearances at a Sevens Series event in America with eight, including two Cup titles, but have not lifted the Cup trophy in 11 years with their last victory coming in San Diego in 2009.
    - This is their third longest Cup title drought at any active location after France (16 years) and Singapore (15 years).
  - New Zealand have reached the Cup final in four of the past five events since Paris. Their three Cup finals this season equal their 2019 total, and will be chasing four appearances in a single season for the first time since 2015-16.
  - They have been the leading, or joint-leading, try-scoring team in three of four events this season, top-scoring in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton.
    - Their 90 tries in total this series are 13 more than the next best team South Africa, and only eight less than their total after four events last season (98) having played three games less.
    - They have not been the top try-scoring team in a Sevens Series event in the United States since San Diego in 2009.
  - They have only topped their pool once in the past five years in the United States, in Las Vegas last season.
  - They are the only team this season yet to concede 10 or more tries in a single tournament, with a competition-low 31 tries across the opening four events including the least, and the joint-least, of any team in Hamilton and Sydney.
  - They are averaging a competition-high 4.1 line-breaks per game this season.
  - They have won 19 of their 21 matches so far this season, with South Africa in Dubai and Fiji in Sydney the only two teams to have defeated them.
  - They were the most disciplined team in Sydney, conceding a tournament-low eight penalties. Their four yellow-cards overall this season are the joint-second least of any team behind Argentina.
  - New Zealand are on a 34-game winning streak against Wales dating back to Adelaide in 2008-09. They have restricted Wales to one try or less in their past four, and in 26 of these 34 victories.

- Their 54-5 victory in their last meeting in Sydney was the joint-second highest winning margin in this history of this fixture.
- New Zealand will play Spain for the first time this season. After recording their first loss in this fixture in Vancouver last year, they won the next meeting 53-0 in Singapore, holding Spain scoreless for the third time in their past five meetings.
- Their past 10 matches against England have been tight contests, all decided by a converted try or less. This will be the first time they have met in the pool stages in America, with all six previous games coming in the knock-out rounds.
  - Since the start of 2018, the All Blacks Sevens have won nine of their past 11 matches against England.
- After finishing fourth in Dubai, **Samoa** have finished 13<sup>th</sup> or lower in each of the past three events this series. Their only Cup final appearance last season came in Las Vegas, their first in America since their Cup title at Sam Boyd Stadium in 2012.
  - They have not won a pool game since Dubai, losing their past 10 matches. This is their longest run of consecutive defeats at this stage of a tournament in Sevens Series history.
  - After scoring 29 tries and making 31 line-breaks across Dubai and Cape Town, they have scored just 17 tries and made 14 line-breaks since Hamilton.
  - They were one of only two teams in Sydney to overturn a half-time deficit, trailing 7-5 at the break against Kenya to win 19-12. Their three half-time comebacks overall this season are the joint-most alongside South Africa, England and France.
  - They will look to improve their defence, averaging the lowest tackle completion-rate of any core team this season (60 per cent), and conceding the fourth-most tries (65).
  - Samoa will play USA for the first time this season. They lost all four games in this fixture in 2019, and their past five dating back to Las Vegas in 2018. They have never lost six-straight matches against the Eagles Sevens.
  - After winning their Cup quarter-final against Australia in Dubai, they have lost their past two matches in Cape Town and Hamilton, both in the pool stages.
    - They have won six of their seven games against Australia in America, with four of these victories by four or less points.
  - They are enjoying a three-game winning streak against Scotland dating back to Sydney last season. They have not won four consecutive games in this fixture since 2009-13 when they won eight-straight.
- **Scotland** are enjoying a four-game winning streak in the United States after winning the Challenge Trophy final in Las Vegas last year. They have never won five-straight games on American soil.
  - They were the only team in Sydney to kick 100 per cent of their conversion attempts (9/9).

- They have lost their past nine pool matches against Australia, with their last victory at this stage coming in Tokyo in 2014-15. Their only two victories in the past 14 matches in this fixture have come in knock-out games.
- They will be hoping to end a seven-game losing streak against hosts USA, their longest in the history of this fixture. They have not tasted victory against the Eagles Sevens since the Cup semi-finals in London in 2017.
  - This will be the first time Scotland have played the hosts on their home soil after 15 previous appearances at this event since 2005.
- Scotland won just one of their four matches against Samoa last season, 24-19 in Hamilton.
- **South Africa** are the most successful Sevens Series team in the United States with a record-four Cup titles, all won in Las Vegas.
  - They have reached the Cup final in three of the opening four events this season, after failing to achieve this across the first five last season.
  - They have been the most ill-disciplined team in two of the past three events, conceding the joint-most penalties in Cape Town (25) and Sydney (19).
  - They made the most line-breaks of any team in Sydney with 20, and are averaging the third-most overall this season with 3.4 per game.
  - They have scored the second-most tries of any team this season with 77, including 23 tries in Sydney, their most in a tournament this series.
  - They have made the joint-most half-time comebacks of any team this season alongside France, England and Samoa, winning three matches when trailing at the break.
  - South Africa are undefeated in their past 27 pool games on American soil, with 24 wins and three draws since 2011 in Las Vegas.
  - They are enjoying a 21-game winning streak against Canada dating back to Las Vegas in 2012-13. They meet for the first time this season after outscoring them 81-14 across both games in 2019.
  - The Blitzboks will meet Ireland in a Sevens Series event for the first time since 2004 in Dubai. South Africa won their last meeting at the 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens 45-7 in San Francisco.
- **Spain** will play their fifth HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event in the United States after first competing in Las Vegas in 2012-13.
  - After winning just two of their opening 11 games this season, they have now won three of their past five since the 13<sup>th</sup> place play-off in Hamilton.
  - Spain's only Sevens Series win against Pool D opponents England came 17-games ago on the Gold Coast 2012-13, 17 games ago. This will be their first series meeting on American soil.
  - Spain's eight-game winning streak against Wales ended in the last meeting in London in 2019. They have not lost consecutive matches against them since Paris in 2017 and Hamilton in 2018.

- **USA** have won their past two events on home soil, and will be looking to become just the fourth host country after New Zealand, South Africa and England to win three or more Cup titles at their own event.
  - They are looking to become just the third team after New Zealand and South Africa to win three-straight Cup titles on home soil.
  - They have never played three Cup finals in the same country, also reaching this stage twice in Australia, in Adelaide in 2009-10 and Sydney in 2019.
  - They won their first medal of the season in Sydney, defeating England 17-10 in the bronze final. At the same stage last series, they had reached the Cup final at all four opening events of the season.
  - USA topped their pool for the first time this series in Sydney after achieving this on six occasions last season. They were the only team last season to win an event without topping their pool (Las Vegas).
  - After conceding 14 tries in Dubai, they have not conceded 10 or more in each of their past three events.
  - They made the second-most offloads of any team in Sydney with 28, the same amount as their total across Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton.
  - They are the most disciplined team this season, averaging a competition-low 2.2 penalties per game
  - They scored a tournament-high 25 tries in Sydney, their most in an event this season. This was the first time since Las Vegas last year where they finished as the tournament's leading try-scoring team.
  - They have won their past seven, and nine of their past 10 matches against Scotland, including all three games this season by double-figure margins.
  - They recorded their highest winning margin (36 points) and second-highest score (43 points) against Australia in their last meeting in Sydney. They have only beaten them twice in seven previous games on home soil.
  - In a replay of last year's Cup final in Las Vegas, USA will look to extend their winning streak against Samoa on home soil to four-straight games.
- **Wales** have won just two of their 16 games this season, against Japan in the 15<sup>th</sup> place play-off in Dubai, and against Kenya in the pool stages in Sydney.
  - They were the only team to failed to regain possession from their own kick-off in Sydney.
  - They have conceded the most tries of any team in the past two tournaments, and 20 or more in Cape Town, Hamilton and Sydney.
  - They have been outscored 180-19 by New Zealand this season, and have been restricted to one try or less in the past four, and 17 of their past 19 matches in this fixture.
  - Wales will look to record consecutive victories against Spain for the first time since 2018 after winning their last meeting 21-17 in London in 2019.
  - Wales ended a 16-game losing streak against England in their last meeting, winning 12-0 in the pool stages in London, and keeping them scoreless for the only the second time, and first since 2007 in London.

## KEY PLAYER STATS

- Argentina coach **Santiago Gomez Cora** played in the 2004 and 2006 HSBC LA Sevens events.
- Australia's **Lewis Holland** will equal Ed Jenkins as Australia's most capped Sevens Series player in his 52<sup>nd</sup> tournament.
- Canada's **Nathan Hirayama** has been the leading point-scorer at each of the past two Sevens Series events in the United States.
- Canada's **Isaac Kaay** has made the most offloads of any player this season with 19, including a tournament-high 11 in Sydney, the most by any player in a single event this series.
- England's **Dan Norton** will become the joint-second most capped player in Sevens Series history in his 90<sup>th</sup> tournament.
  - He is the second all-time leading try-scorer in USA with 33 tries, including four doubles and three hat-tricks.
- Fiji's **Aminasi Tuimaba** has scored the most doubles of any player this season with four, including three in his past five games. He is Fiji's leading try-scorer this season with 15, including scoring their most or joint-most in Dubai, Hamilton and Sydney.
  - He made a tournament-high seven line-breaks in Sydney, the most of any player in at a single event this season.
- Ireland's captain **Billy Dardis** scored the joint-second most points of any player at 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens in San Francisco with 32, and is one of six survivors from that event in their 12-man squad for Los Angeles.
  - He has kicked 84 per cent of his conversion attempts this season, the second-highest success-rate of any player with more than 10 shots at goal.
- Kenya's **Willy Ambaka** will play his 50<sup>th</sup> Series tournament.
- New Zealand coach **Clark Laidlaw** represented Scotland at the last two Sevens Series events in Los Angeles in 2005 and 2006, scoring their only try in their pool match against Argentina in 2006.
- New Zealand's **Tim Mikkelson** will become the most capped All Blacks Sevens player in his 90<sup>th</sup> tournament, and move to joint-second all-time.
  - He is the All Black Sevens leading Sevens Series try-scorer with 229, and is one try away from moving into equal third all-time alongside Santiago Gomez Cora and Seabelo Senatla.
- South Africa's **Werner Kok** will play his 50<sup>th</sup> Sevens Series tournament.
- South Africa's **Angelo Davids** was the leading try-scorer in Sydney with eight, including two hat-tricks.
- USA's **Perry Baker** and **Carlin Isles** are in a race to become the first Eagles Sevens player to score 200 Series tries.
  - Both currently sit on 199 tries, and have each been the leading try-scorer in each of the past two events in Las Vegas, with Isles top scoring with eight in 2019 and Baker with eight in 2018.