

Rugby

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—“All The News That's Fit”

U.S. Beats New Zealand and England to Win World Cup!

AMERICAN RUGBY UNION
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The United States won the inaugural Women's World Cup in Cardiff, Wales with victories over the Netherlands (7-0), the Soviet Union (46-0), New Zealand (7-0) and England (19-6) in the final. The U.S. Women have now compiled an impressive international record of 10-1. The U.S. (on left in light jerseys) lines up against New Zealand above. (Photo - Lee)

U.S. Women Win World Cup

by Terence Lee



The United States Women's Eagles (left in dark jerseys) line up against England in the final of the 1st Women's World Cup in Cardiff, Wales. The Eagles won 19-6. The visible U.S. players are (l-r) Morgan Whitehead, Claire Godwin, Tara Flanagan, Tam Breckenridge, Annie Flavin and Val Sullivan.

pletely committed to victory."

Format

The twelve international teams were divided into four pools of three and each team played the other two in its pool. The top team from each pool went to the semifinals of the Championship division while the second team went into the Plate competition. If one team did not win outright a point differential was considered as in Pool One where Canada went into the Plate over Wales.

Venues

The final and semifinals were all

held at the Cardiff RFC ground adjacent to Cardiff Arms Park. Other matches were played at various clubs throughout south Wales: Glamorgan Wanderers, Aberavon, Pontypool, Llanharen and Swansea.

RESULTS

Pool One

New Zealand 24, Canada 8
Wales 9, Canada 9
New Zealand 28, Wales 8

Pool Two

France 62, Japan 0
France 37, Sweden 0
Sweden 20, Japan 0

Pool Three

United States 7, Netherlands 0
Netherlands 28, USSR 0
United States 46, USSR 0

Pool Four

England 12, Spain 0
England 25, Italy 9
Spain 17, Italy 7

Plate Final

Canada 16, Spain 9

Semifinals

United States 7, New Zealand 0
England 13, France 0

Final

United States 19, England 6

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

United States'

Pool Play:

UNITED STATES 7, NETHERLANDS 0

Pontypool, Wales

April 6, 1991

In the midst of torrential rain, several inches of standing water and near freezing temperatures, the U.S. women started their World Cup campaign with a 7-0 win over the Netherlands.

Although the score was low, the Eagles truly dominated their opposition and were kept from scoring more by their own penalty trouble than by the Dutch defense. The mobile U.S. forwards and quick backs were also wanting for excitement due to the impossible footing. One major setback was the early

loss due to injury of scrumhalf Barb Fugate from 1988 club champion University of Minnesota. She was replaced by Patty Connell (Beantown), who promptly set up wing Patty Jervey for the only try of the match.

Andi Morrell (Belmont Shore) completed the scoring with a penalty kick, 7-0.

Scoring - Eagles: Try: Jervey. Penalty: Morrell.

Halftime - 7-0 (USA)

United States

United States	Netherlands
Fahey	1 Schmutzer
Sullivan, V.	2 Veltkamp
Flavin	3 Hoeffnagel
Morrell	4 Van Waveren
Breckenridge	5 Van Der Goot
Seabaugh	6 Twisk
Whitehead	7 Ubink
Bond (c)	8 de Klein
Fugate *	9 B. Terpstra
Dixey	10 Lichtenbeld
Jervey	11 Van Luik
Huffer	12 Sluettel
Orsini	13 Van Mens
Sullivan, M.	14 I. Terpstra
McFarren	15 Bounan

* Replaced by Connell

Referee: Les Peard (Wales)

UNITED STATES 46, SOVIET UNION 0

Cardiff, Wales

April 10, 1991

With dry ground under their feet and three tries by speedy winger Patty Jervey, the United States showed their true colors, rolling over the Soviet Union, 46-0. In their only other meeting, last August in New Zealand, the Eagles topped the Soviets 32-0.

Scoring 9 unanswered tries, the Eagles were never really tested by the Soviets, who have only 8 clubs back home and are really not on the top level yet.

Winger Patty Jervey (Florida State), an Eastern rep player for the past five years, really got to strut her stuff in this match, with a hat trick of tries. Florida State teammate Candi Orsini scored two.

Scoring - Eagles: Tries: Jervey (3), Orsini (2), Meredith, Crawford,

M.Sullivan, Flanagan, Conversions: Harju (5).
Halftime - 24-0 (USA)

United States	Soviet Union
Hertz	1 Zvyagina
Thompson	2 Massalova
Sorenson	3 Belyakova
Flanagan	4 Moukhanova
Rutkowski	5 Vinnikova
Whitehead	6 Korsakova
Godwin	7 Lenskaya
Flores (c)	8 Borisova
Connell	9 Nikonova
Harju	10 Tréfilenkova
Meredith	11 Erina
Crawford	12 Kouzina
Orsini	13 Apukhtina
Jervey	14 Zakharova
Sullivan, M. (c)	15 Petlevannaya

Referee: Alan Boreham (Wales)

Semifinals:

UNITED STATES 7, NEW ZEALAND 0

Cardiff, Wales

April 12, 1991

An air-tight defense and tremendous full-field pressure destroyed New Zealand's confidence, or perhaps overconfidence, and gave the United States a hard-earned 7-0 victory in the first semifinal.

As the lights came on in the stadium and a light rain began to fall, the Kiwi women grew more and more frustrated at their inability to cross the gain line.

Although close throughout and only 3-0 at the half, the score line represented more the United States' inability to finish than a strong defensive stand by New Zealand. New Zealand was prevented from mounting any offense of note and mostly kicked to relieve pressure.

Both wing Krista McFarren and fullback Mary Sullivan had excellent matches, leading the way with devastating tackles and counter-attacking from numerous New Zealand kicks. Wing Patty Jervey, with several unconsummated long runs, and scrumhalf Patty Connell, who constantly badgered her opposite number, also had good games.

First Half

Exerting tremendous pressure on New Zealand, the Eagles forced an infraction in the 20th minute and flyhalf Chris Harju converted the second of her 5 penalty attempts, 3-0.

Second Half

Fifteen minutes into the second half the U.S. asserted its dominance with a pushover try, touched down by #8 and captain Barb Bond, 7-0.

Kevin O'Brien

"We dominated them in a lot of positions where I didn't think we would," said Eagle coach Kevin O'Brien. "Their pack started off being quite strong, but we exerted pressure through our front row and eventually got that pushover try. That was totally unexpected and seemed to demoralize them.

"We tried from the start to maintain consistent pressure, deny them space to run and prevent them from getting past the gain line to link up with their forwards and win second phase ball.

"The key to it all was the pressure and incredible tackling from every single player."

Scoring - Eagles: Try: Bond. Penalty: Harju.



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United States	New Zealand
Flavin 1	Rere 1
Sullivan, V. 2	Inwood 2
Sorenson 3	Ewe 3
Breckenridge 4	* Tiriamai 4
Flanagan 5	Sio 5
Godwin 6	(c) Littleworth 6
Whitehead 7	Paul 7
Bond (c) 8	Fitzgibbon 8
Connell 9	Richards 9
Harju 10	Apiata 10
McFarren 11	Mahon 11
Crawford 12	Chase 12
Orsini 13	Wong 13
Jervey 14	Brett 14
Sullivan, M. (c) 15	Ross 15
Referee: Gareth Symmons (Wales)	

ENGLAND 13, FRANCE 0

Cardiff, Wales
April 12, 1991

Dominating possession and foiling most French attempts at running the ball, a bigger England side methodically rolled over France 13-0 in the second semifinal.

Although England emphasized the bulk and strength of their forwards against France's speed, the 1,500 spectators got a glimpse of England's proficient backline when winger Debbie Francis touched down their second try.

Scoring - England: Tries: Burns, Francis. Conversion: Burns. Penalty: Burns.

Halftime - 3-0 (England).

England	France
Ewing 1	Rousse 1
Dorrington 2	Francoise 2
Watts 3	Girard 3
Wenn 4	Ibos 4
Stirrup 5	Dupont 5
Ross 6	Amiel 6
Isherwood 7	Alaphilippe 7
Burns 8	(c) Bertrank 8
Mitchell 9	Sulpipe 9
Almond (c) 10	Del Barco 10
Francis 11	Robichon 11
Williets 12	Lacomere 12
Robson 13	Lavigne 13
Stennett 14	Saudin 14
Mitchell 15	Mathy 15
Referee: Ken Rowlands (Wales)	

Final:

UNITED STATES 19, ENGLAND 6

Cardiff, Wales
April 14, 1991

To say that this was the best example of women's rugby to date would be an understatement. The United States took on an experienced England squad in front of a home crowd and pressured them into numerous errors.

Pressure and Fitness

The Eagles put the English under tremendous pressure and never allowed them space to capitalize on their strengths.

"Pressure and fitness did it for us," said U.S. coach Kevin O'Brien of Beantown. "We let England have the ball first with the wind because we knew that they'd have to score a lot of points early on to beat us and they couldn't."

England

For their part England played well in the first half, taking the majority of possession and preventing the Eagles from racking up points. With the relentless pressure coming from a rejuvenated American side in the second half, however, the English women were reduced to fighting for their lives.

Captain and flyhalf Karen Almond instinctively reverted to kicking to her forwards to retain possession



MVP flanker Claire Godwin has the ball out in the World Cup champion Eagles' 7-0 victory over New Zealand in the semifinals. The Eagles went on to beat England 19-6 in the final. (Photo - Lee)

sion and starve the American backs of the ball. As the pressure grew, however, the accuracy of her kicks declined and the tide turned irrevocably towards the U.S.

First Half

The first score of the match came fifteen minutes in when the English forwards parlayed a long term of possession into a five-meter scrum. Welsh referee Les Peard called the U.S. for collapsing after a sustained English push and awarded England a penalty try. The try was converted from under the posts by captain and #8 Gill Burns, 6-0.

The U.S. came to life as the half wore on, but their scoring was limited to a penalty kick by flyhalf Chris Harju (Rio Grande Surfers), 6-3.

Second Half

After the turnaround, the fitter and more committed U.S. women began to dominate and tallied three tries as the English resolve slowly slipped away. Flanker Claire Godwin, who most agreed was the best athlete in the event, scored two tries in a row for the Eagles, finishing off some nifty work by the U.S. pack. Godwin's first try came from a rolling maul after a lineout taken by Tara Flanagan and the second from a quick lineout call on the English 10-meter line. Chris Harju converted the first, 13-6.

Scrumhalf Patty Connell, who played well in every game after replacing Barb Fugate minutes into the tournament, sealed the Eagles victory with a Harju-converted try.

England Coach

"The U.S. played exactly like I thought they would," said England coach Steve Dowling. "They get the ball out as quick as possible and run it, a very simple and effective strategy."

"We thought we were prepared for that type of match, but really didn't put them under as much pressure as we hoped. They also put a lot of pressure on our backs."

"We could probably teach the U.S. a little something about the technical side of scrummaging and lineouts because of the game's tradition over here. But at the moment we just haven't got the athletes the U.S. does."

Kathy Flores

"We felt our backs were very good and that their forwards were big and dominating, so our strategy was to get the ball out to our backs

as quickly as possible," said co-captain and #8 Kathy Flores.

"Their forwards were moving the ball very well early on and we were getting called a lot for going over the top. But as soon as we scored that first try in the second half, the game broke open a little and we progressively took over."

Scoring - Eagles: Tries: Godwin (2), Connell. Conversions: Harju (2). Penalty: Harju. England: Try: Penalty try. Conversion: Burns.

Halftime - 6-3 (England)

United States	England
Flavin 1	Ewing 1
Sullivan, V. 2	Dorrington 2
Sorenson 3	Watts 3
Breckenridge 4	Wenn 4
Flanagan 5	Stirrup 5
Godwin 6	Ross 6
Whitehead 7	Isherwood 7
Flores (c) 8	(c) Burns 8
Connell 9	Mitchell 9
Harju 10	(c) Almond 10
McFarren 11	Francis 11
Crawford 12	Williets 12
Orsini 13	Robson 13
Jervey 14	Stennett 14
Sullivan, M. (c) 15	* Mitchell 15
* Replaced by Prangnell	
Referee: Les Peard (Wales)	

MVP - Claire Godwin

United States flanker Claire Godwin is Rugby's choice for the tournament's Most Valuable Player, not only for igniting the second half comeback against England with two crucial tries, but also for contributing immensely towards the emotional energy that saw this team through to victory.

Locks From Hell

Two Eagle players who definitely deserve mention are locks Tara Flanagan and Tam Breckenridge, known by their own admittance as the "Locks from Hell". Instead of the large, immobile 2nd rows that seemed to populate the other teams, the Eagles possessed two very athletic, mobile women who also happen to be tall.

Flanagan and Breckenridge held their own against larger women in the sets and then played like flankers in the loose. Furthermore, the possession they did secure was clean and crisp, unlike the sloppy ball coming from most opponents.

Laurel Lockett

Another notable presence was Laurel Lockett, a U.S. referee and USARFU Disciplinary Chair. Lau-

rel refereed several World Cup matches and was the only official USARFU representative in attendance at this World Cup victory.

World Cup Genesis

Only six months shy of the 2nd World Cup for men and with very little support or money, the women have pulled off an amazing feat. Four English women ruggers put this event together on a wing and a prayer and it was a smashing success despite a dreadful lack of support from British corporate sponsors (so abundant in men's rugby)

No Show Administrators

The proud gentlemen of the RFU were nowhere to be seen when things were being organized and paid for, but the RFU officials were on the scene when laurels were being passed out and the press was in attendance (at the final and at the banquet). Their presence, however, was one step ahead of their American counterparts.

Seemingly no effort was made by USARFU to have an official on site for a world championship in which their team was favored to win. Keith Seaber, chairman of the USARFU Team Development Committee, was in Scotland for the Melrose Sevens on the weekend of the Women's World Cup final. The U.S. Cougars were eliminated from the Melrose Tournament on Saturday morning, yet Seaber chose not to make the four hour drive to Cardiff for the Sunday afternoon final, a trip made by a number of other U.S. supporters.

As rugby correspondent Steve Bale wrote in the *London Times*, "The [Women's World Cup] was deserving of better from a male-dominated culture which should be more specific when it says it wants to develop the game worldwide...the men's game, that is. To clear this tournament's debt [the event stood to lose near \$20,000 at last count] would be a drop in the ocean in countries where international matches habitually gross almost \$1 million."

"The [World Cup] was a great success despite, rather than because of, the attitude of officialdom."

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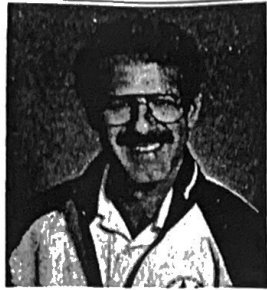
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by Emil Signes

Women's World Cup Final: A Statistical Analysis

white, good ball, white 9 to 10, misses 12 to 13 to 15, tackled by red 13 behind the gain line," etc.)

The data was then transcribed and tabulated. The results are understandable, interesting and revealing.

Summary of Scoring

England began the scoring with a penalty try (as they were in the process of pushing a scrum across the goal line) at 15:00. The only other first half scoring was an Eagle penalty kick at 33:00.

In the second half, there were three Eagle tries: at 2:50 from a back row play at a 5-meter scrum, at 6:30 from a quick throw in at the England 2-meter line, and at 15:50 from a tap and peel lineout at the England 22. Final score: USA 19, England 6.

A) POSSESSION

The tables below indicate disposition of the ball by the team that put it in play:

The Henderson method also calls for quality of possession at each set piece to be recorded; (good ball is that which can be played without inordinate defensive pressure).

	Eagles		
	Won	Good	% Good
Scrum	13	13	100
Lineouts	16	10	63
Total	29	23	79

	England		
	Won	Good	% Good
Scrum	26	19	73
Lineouts	24	9	38
Total	50	28	56

Comments

The table indicates that the Eagle forwards were providing better quality of possession (79% vs. 56%) to their backs, although the absolute number of good possessions was still in England's favor, 28-23.

Furthermore, England led the U.S. in ruck and maul ball, 35-24. Although quality of possession at rucks and mauls was not recorded, it was close to 100% good ball for both teams.

C) USE OF POSSESSION

The third element of the Henderson method requires that we record whether the ball crossed the gain line, and if so, whether in the hands or via a kick. If via a kick, the recorder needs to evaluate the kick as "good" or "bad" (subjective judgments in many cases). In the summary that follows, crossing the gain line with a kick implies with a "good kick."

Using these criteria, the reasons for the Eagle dominance begin to jump out at us:

Use of "Good Ball" at Scrums and Lineouts:

The Eagles crossed the gain line 20 times on 23 good balls (87%), 12 times with the ball in hand (52%).

England crossed the gain line 13 times on 28 good balls (46%), only 2 times with the ball in hand (7%), which includes one penalty try.

Use of all ball, at scrums, lineouts, rucks and mauls:

Using all possession won at scrums, lineouts, rucks and mauls, similarly differentiates the two teams:

The Eagles crossed the gain line 31 times on 48 possessions (65%), 16 times with the ball in hand (33%).

England crossed the gain line 20 times on 73 possessions (27%), 5 times with the ball in hand (7%).

Comments

It is clear that, despite much less possession, and also less good possession, the Eagles won the game on their vastly superior use of the ball and ability to cross the gain line.

With 73 possessions at scrums, lineouts, or rucks/mauls, England was only able to cross the gain line 5 times with ball in hand, as opposed to the Eagles, who crossed it 16 times on 48 possessions. In both cases, the try line was crossed about 20% of the time the gain line was crossed with ball in hand (1 out of 5 for England, 3 out of 16 for the Eagles).

In many cases this difference was due to the clear superiority of the Eagle backs, who tackled the England backs behind the gain line virtually every time they tried to run the ball, and who themselves gained tons of yardage when given the ball in space.

To call this a backs' victory would, however, be misleading. All three Eagle tries were scored directly from situations in which the forwards won the ball and got it across the gain



Prop M.A. Sorenson on the attack at the 1991 Women's World Cup with Morgan Whitehead (l) and Barb Bond in support. (Photo - Lee)

A) Possession

Eagles Start Play

	#	Won	Lost	Other	% Lost
Scrum	15	12	2	1	13
Lineouts	21	11*	5	5	24
Rucks	16	8	7	1	44
Mauls	8	3	2	3	25
Kickoffs	2	0	2	0	100
Dropouts	2	0	2	0	100
Pen K's	4	4	0	0	0
Free K's	2	2**	0	0	0
Total	70	40	20	10	29%

* Includes one quick throw in.

** Includes one fair catch.

England Starts Play

	#	Won	Lost	Other	% Lost
Scrum	26	24	1	1	4
Lineouts	27	18	5	4	19
Rucks	20	7	6	7	30
Mauls	15	8	2	5	13
Kickoffs	5	0	4	1	80
Dropouts	1	0	1	0	100
Pen K's	12	12	0	0	0
Free K's	1	1	0	0	0
Total	107	70	19	18	18%

The Eagles' retention rate was lower than that of England; they lost 29% of the ball they put into play, compared to only 18% for England. Furthermore, the Eagles lost 38% of the rucks and mauls they initiated, almost twice England's turnover rate at second phase situations.

Total Possession Won By Each Team

	Total		1st Half		2nd Half	
	USA	Eng	USA	Eng	USA	Eng
Set Scrum	13	26	3	15	10	11
Lineouts	16	24	8	12	8	12
Rucks/Mauls	19	23	8	14	11	9
KO/DO/PK/FK	11	17	5	9	6	8
Total	59	90	24	50	35	40
Percent	40%	60%	32%	68%	47%	53%

It is obvious that number of possessions does not begin to tell the story. The Eagles only won 40% of the ball, including only 33% of set scrum ball, the platform upon which, the theory goes, all else is built.

line themselves.

Use of Statistics

The information presented merely summarizes part of the data. More information, such as where the ball was won at lineouts, and quality use of penalty kicks, can also be determined. Just to pick one situation, it is interesting that, at 10 kickoffs & dropouts, the kicking team did not win the ball once.

Recording statistics with the help of a tape recorder is far more time consuming (double work) but more

accurate than trying to record "live," and allows you to watch the game more closely.

The information recorded is instructive and can be of use to coaches and players at all levels. It is clear from the numbers, for example, that the Eagles' retention of the ball at ruck/maul situations is inadequate and needs work.

Finally, congratulations to the Eagle women; they've given the men a tough act to follow.

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HALBRO Team Of The Month

United States Women

Founded: 1987

Colors: Red, White and Blue

Captains: Barbara Bond, Kathy Flores and Mary Sullivan

Coaches: Kevin O'Brien (head coach); Chris Leach, David Hooper.

International Record: 9-1 (test matches); 11-1 (overall record).

International Results: Canada Tests - U.S. 22, Canada 3 - Victoria, B.C., November 14, 1987; U.S. 26, Canada 10 - Saranac Lake, NY, August 8, 1988; U.S. 28, Canada 3 - Edmonton, AB, September 3, 1989.

New Zealand Women's Rugby Festival, Christchurch, NZ, August 27- September 1, 1990 - U.S. 12, Canterbury 0; U.S. 6, Auckland 0; U.S. 38, Netherlands 0; New Zealand 9, U.S. 3; U.S. 32, Soviet Union 0.

First Women's World Cup, Cardiff, Wales, April 6-14, 1991 - U.S. 7, Netherlands 0; U.S. 46, Soviet Union 0; U.S. 7, New Zealand 0 (semifinals); U.S. 19, England 6 (final).

Capped Eagle Players (1987-1991): PROPS: Colleen Fahey, Annie Flavin, Julie Gray, Jennifer Hertz, Karen Ryan, S.S. Shaw, Maryanne Sorenson. HOOKERS: Darlene Connors, Vicki Middaugh, Mary Money, Val Sullivan, Julie Thompson. LOCKS: Tam Breckenridge, Kath Edsall, Tara Flanagan, Julie Liebler, Andi Morrell, Robin Pace, Lori Reese, Jan Rutkowski. FLANKERS: Cynthia Bystrak, Claire Godwin, Kerri Heffernan, Cassie Law, Cathy Seabaugh, Clare Sup, Morgan Whitehead. NUMBER 8s: Barbara Bond, Kathy Flores. SCRUMHALVES: Patty Connell, Deborah Dennis, Barb Fugate, Margie McClure. FLYHALVES: Mary Dixey, Polly Foureman, Tanya Fry, Chris Harju, Pat Standley. CENTERS: Jen Crawford, Tracy Henderson, Elise Huffer, Joan Morrissey, K.O. Onufry, Candi Orsini. WINGS: Dawn Farwick, Patty Jervey, Sandy Meredith, Annie Misko, Jill Ray. FULLBACKS: Nancy Breen, Krista McFarren, Mary Sullivan.

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(FRONT, L-R) Kevin O'Brien (coach), Patty Jervey, Jen Crawford, Val Sullivan, Annie Flavin, Chris Harju, Julie Thompson, Mary Sullivan, Chris Leach (Asst. Coach). (MIDDLE) Tara Flanagan, Claire Godwin, Jan Rutkowski, Mary Dixey, Jennifer Hertz, Sandy Meredith, Barb Bond, Tam Breckenridge. (BACK) Candi Orsini, Kathy Flores, Patty Connell, Morgan Whitehead, Krista McFarren, Maryanne Sorenson.

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