

# US Women Top Canada, 26-10

by Terence Lee

Saranac Lake, NY  
August 8, 1988

The United States National Side confirmed their dominance of North American women's rugby by beating Canada, 26-10, in their 2nd Can-Am match. The U.S. scored 6 tries and 1 conversion to Canada's 2 tries and 1 conversion. Played on North Country Community College's pristine pitch, the women's international attracted over 1,000 spectators and was the showpiece of the final day of the Saranac Lake Tournament.

## 1st Test

The U.S. women's side, drawn from 154 clubs nationwide, won their first-ever test with a 22-3 win over Canada in Victoria, B.C. on November 14, 1987.

## Style

The women, lacking the ability to hit long kicks, play a different brand of rugby than the men.

The majority of free kicks and penalties are run. And, as strategic kicking by the flyhalf is deemphasized, the #8 and scrum-half combine more frequently for adventurous weakside breaks.

The women internationals are very well-schooled in the basics, and had no trouble sustaining 2nd and even 3rd phase ball. It was a nice change from the kick-oriented international men's game.

## 1988 Test

In this test, the U.S. women left no doubt as to who was the dominant side. The small, mobile U.S. pack provided quick possession and good support for



US #8 Barb Bond gets the ball out against the Canadian women in their 2nd international at Saranac Lake, NY. Canadian captain & flanker Ruth Hellerud-Brown is in pursuit. (Photo - Lee)

Johnson.

## 1st Half

In the first half, the strong U.S. backs probed for openings in the Canadian backline, whereas the Canadians concentrated their attack at the base of the scrum.

The American women struck first, after Canadian center Shemaine Kozakovich missed a penalty in the early minutes.

Wing Candi Orsini touched down in the 11th minute after the ball was spun out along the backline from a ruck 25 meters from the Canadian line. Crawford led the conversion, 4-0.

Canadian defense after the U.S. won a scrum 10 meters from goal. Crawford converted her own try to end the scoring for the half at 10-4.

## 2nd Half

In the 2nd half, the U.S. women came into their own, scoring 4 tries, dominating possession and simply outrunning the opposition.

Only 3 minutes in, a 5-meter scrum yielded a try when heads-up scrumhalf Margie McClure dove into the scrum to touch down when the Canadians were pushed back after winning the

ball. Jen Crawford missed the conversion, 14-4 U.S.

Canadian scrumhalf Corinne Skrobot fought back with a beautiful solo try at 17 minutes. Her try came on a weakside move from a set scrum, 15 meters from the U.S. line. Kozakovich converted to narrow the U.S. margin to 4 (14-10).

But, that was to be all she wrote for Canada.

Fifteen minutes later, after a few penetrating runs, Candi Orsini broke through for her 2nd try. Crawford missed another conversion but the U.S. led

18-10.

With three minutes to go, wing Annie Misko of the Bay Area Shehawks finished a move by flanker Kerri Heffernan for another unconverted try (22-10).

Scrumhalf Margie McClure, who combined well with flyhalf Polly Foureman throughout the match, scored again on a solo, weak-side effort in injury time to end the scoring at 26-10.

## Kevin O'Brien

U.S. coach Kevin O'Brien (Beantown) felt that the American women played very well. "But, our cohesion in the scrum was not as good as it could've been," said O'Brien.

"The Canadian scrummaging improved enormously since the last test [November]. Their forwards were bigger and had better technique."

"The U.S. difficulties combined with the Canadian progress prevented the U.S. from controlling the set pieces as they had expected.

"The Canadians seemed to want to keep the ball close to the scrum and away from our strength in the backs. Fortunately for us this didn't work out," said O'Brien.

## Future Plans

As it stands now the U.S. National team has been invited to meet Canada again at the Toronto Golden Oldies Festival in September of 1989.

The team is also planning a European tour sometime in the near future. They hope to face England and France.

## Sponsorship

The U.S. Women's XV was supported by **Lands' End** (jerseys), and **Rugby Imports** (balls, shorts and socks).

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#### 1988 Test

In this test, the U.S. women left no doubt as to who was the dominant side. The small, mobile U.S. pack provided quick possession and good support for their exciting backs. U.S. scrum-half Margie McClure, who scored two 2nd-half tries, effectively linked her forwards to the backs, making good use of all the tidy possession.

Wing Candi Orsini, also scoring 2 tries, provided excellent entertainment with her speed and cutback ability, as did Karen Onufry and Jen Crawford in the centers.

The standout Canadian had to be scrum-half Corinne Skrobot from Edmonton, who scored 2 tries and spearheaded the Canadian attack with #8 Susan

trated their attack at the base of the scrum.

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The Canadians bounced back 5 minutes later as the result of tenacious support play by #9, Skrobot. The Canadian scrum-half broke left from a ruck with the backs split, fed wing Jenny Vincent, and was there to finish the move for the try. Kozakovich missed the conversion and the score was knotted at 4 apiece.

The U.S. women applied relentless pressure throughout the 2nd quarter but were only able to notch one more try. At 25 minutes, outside center Jen Crawford crashed through the

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#### UNITED STATES

Player	Club
Annie Flavin*	Beantown
Mary Money*	Southeast Harlequins
Karen Ryan*	University of Minnesota
Tam Breckenridge	Belmont Shore
Lori Reese*	University of Minnesota
Kerri Heffernan*	Beantown
Kathy Flores (C)*	Florida State
Barb Bond	Bay Area Shehaws
Margie McClure	Beantown
Polly Foureman	Madison
Annie Misko*	Bay Area Shehaws
Karen Onufry	Beantown
Jen Crawford	Berkeley All Blues
Candi Orsini*	Florida State
Mary Sullivan*	University of Minnesota

Coach: Kevin O'Brien  
Assistant Coach: Dave Hooper

#### CANADA

Player	Club
Brenda Treleven	Winnipeg Wasps
Val Gompf	Winnipeg Wasps
Helen Newsham*	Edmonton Rockers
Tina Fuchs*	Simon Fraser University
Brenda McKenzie	Edmonton Coven
Stephanie White	Calgary Renegades
Ruth Hellerud-Brown (C)*	Regina Breakers
Susan Johnson	Edmonton Rockers
Corinne Skrobot*	Edmonton Coven
Karen Richardson*	St. Anne de Bellevue
Dawn Williams	Regina Breakers
Arlette Strashok	Edmonton Rockers
Shelaine Kozakovich*	Edmonton Coven
Jenny Vincent	St. Anne de Bellevue
Nancy Kouwenhoven*	Pocomo

Coach: Ian Humphreys  
Assistant Coach: Steve Burgess

Referee: Don Morrison (USARFU)  
Touch Judges: Ed Browder and Mark Binning (ERU)

\*participated in 1987 Test

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The United States Women's National Team (Photo - Lee)