

# Fiji Beats NZ for 1990 World 7s Title

by Ed Hagerty

**Hong Kong**  
**April 1, 1990**

Fulfilling a promise of victory he made to Fijian rugby fans last year after being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, twenty year old Waisale Serevi led the flying Fijians to a 22-10 demolition of defending champion New Zealand in the final of the 1990 Cathay Pacific/Hong Kong Bank Sevens. As a result of his dazzling play, Serevi, the event's high scorer (46 points) was again named Most Valuable Player, the first player to be twice honored in Hong Kong's 15 year history.

## 22 Unanswered Points

In this year's final, Fiji spotted a very strong New Zealand side a 10 point lead, but then came roaring back with an awesome combination of speed, ball handling and smothering defense, leaving no doubt that they are the world sevens champions. Included in Fiji's unanswered 22 point rampage was a spectacular go ahead score by Tomasi Cama, which veterans among the 30,000 spectators felt was the best try at Hong Kong - ever.

## FIJI

### Disappointed In 1989

Fiji has won the Hong Kong title four times in the past but not since 1984, and they were bitterly disappointed over a controversial 12-10 loss to New Zealand in their 1989 semi-final. Fiji led the All Blacks 10-0 just before halftime, when Serevi scored a try in the corner. To the amazement of everyone, the referee disallowed it and the Fijians lost both their concentra-



Fiji's Waisale Serevi, Hong Kong's 2-time MVP and 1990 high point scorer (46), attacks against New Zealand in the final. Fiji won 22-10 in one of the event's most exciting championships of all time. (Photo - Hagerty)

tion and the game.

Fiji vowed to bring the crown back home in 1990 and they did so with a vengeance.

## Fiji Preliminaries

In Saturday's round robin matches, Fiji opened the throttle three quarters wide as they accelerated smoothly past the diminutive Thais 34-0 and shut down the U.S. 28-6. Ratu Vonolagi scored three tries against Thailand while Niko Baleiverata posted three against the game but outclassed Eagles.

The fact that Vonolagi and Baleiverata made only one appearance each in Hong Kong

speaks volumes for Fiji's depth.

Serevi directed traffic and added seven conversions in the two efforts.

**Quarterfinal:**  
**Fiji 28**  
**Tonga 12**

In game three, the Fijians had to open the throttle a bit more to discourage a gritty Tongan side. Trailing 12-6 at halftime, Tonga made a horse race out of it by levelling the score two minutes into the second half on a try by Anitoni (12-12).

However, a second try by Tomasi Cama (who would lead all Hong Kong try scorers with 7) and two by 6'5" 235 pound Mesake Rasari, iced the game for Fiji (28-12).

**Semifinal:**  
**Fiji 34**  
**Wales 6**

Fiji's semifinal match against Wales was viewed with more than idle curiosity because it pitted the first Home County brave enough to send an official national team against a southern Hemisphere sevens power.

After knocking off Singapore in one preliminary (44-0), Wales avoided unmerciful censure in the British press by slipping by a tough Hong Kong side 6-4 in the other.

The Welsh hit their stride in the Cup quarterfinal against Australia, coming from a 10-0 halftime deficit to defeat the 1989 finalist 16-0 on a hat trick of tries by their big, fast wing Arthur Emyr.

The large Welsh supporter contingent had much to cheer about in the semi-final when, after two minutes of scoreless play, Arthur Emyr touched down to give Wales a 6-0 lead over Fiji.

Unfortunately for Wales, the score also woke up the Fijians who pressed the accelerator a bit harder and ran in six unanswered tries in the process. Five different players touched down (Serevi, Rasari, Rauluni, Dere and Cama (2)), with Serevi converting five.

## Fiji

Rasari  
Rauluni  
Dere  
Tabulutu  
Serevi  
Nadruku  
Cama

**Referee:**

\* Replaced by John Jeffrey

## Wales

1 A. Williams \*  
2 Hillman  
3 S. Williams  
4 Bridges  
5 Clement  
6 Parfitt  
7 Emyr

## NEW ZEALAND

Despite Serevi's promises to bring the Hong Kong Cup home to Fiji, most of the "smart" money rode with New Zealand. The New Zealand Squad had five 15-a-side All Blacks, including captain Zinzan Brooke, wing Terry Wright and fullback John Gallagher. In addition, they had fleet flankers Eric Rush, Dallas Seymour and Patrick Lam plus Fijian sprint champion Paula Bale on the wing.

## New Zealand Preliminaries

In their two round-robin matches, the three time champion All Blacks found little opposition as they scored a total

of 80 points, beating the Arabian Gulf Selects 42-0 and Korea 38-4.

The interest level was quite a bit higher for the All Black's quarterfinal against the Scottish Borderers and their semifinal with the British Barbarians. Although administrators in these two countries haven't mustered the courage to send official sides (much to the chagrin of their own players), the Borderers were a shadow Scotland side, while the Barbarians represented the best team England could field.

**Quarterfinal:**  
**New Zealand 20**

**Scottish Borderers 12**

The All Black/Borderers matchup was of special interest because it featured defending world champion New Zealand against the best that Scotland, the birthplace of 7s, could field. In addition to Border sevens specialists Harry Hogg and Ian Corcoran, the side included two Scotland caps (Tony Stanger and Eric Paxton), plus three men (John Jeffrey, Gary Armstrong and Craig Chalmers) who have the dual distinction of representing both Scotland and the British Lions.

The Scottish went out to a 6-0 lead on a converted try by Harry Hogg but the All Blacks overtook them by halftime on unconverted touch downs by Seymour and Bachop (8-6).

Second half tries by Eric Rush and John Schuster, which John Gallagher converted, iced the game at 20-6. The Scots, however, showed that they will be a future force when Hogg scored his second converted try with 4 seconds remaining (20-12).

**Semi Final:**  
**New Zealand 24**  
**Barbarians 6**

Despite claims by RFU administrators that an England 7s side could not be sent because the players were too busy or Hong Kong was out of season, the Barbarians represented the cream of English rugby. The team which faced New Zealand included 6 current England caps

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The Fijian side prepares for battle with giant prop Mesake Rasari (left), top try-scorer Tamasi Cama (center) and Waisale Serevi leading the way. (Photo - Hagerty)



(Evans, Moore, Skinner, Winterbottom, Andrew & Carling) plus 'B' international Richard Moon, a sevens specialist.

As in Wales' semifinal against Fiji, things went well for the Baa Baas early on as the All Blacks were called for tackling Will Carling without the ball. A penalty try was awarded, which Andrew converted 6-0. A very physical first half ended in a 6-6 tie when John Gallagher converted Eric Rush's try.

The second half, however, was all one way traffic as the All Blacks' superior talent and teamwork saw Gallagher and Bachop (2) run in three tries. Gallagher's three conversions brought the final tally to 24-6, setting the stage for a rematch at sundown between New Zealand and Fiji.

New Zealand	Barbarians
Brooke	1 Skinner
Seymour	2 Moore
Rush	3 Winterbottom
Bachop	4 Moon
Schuster	5 Andrew
Gallagher	6 Carling *
Bale	7 Evans

Referee: Hilditch  
\* Replaced by Guscott



American Stuart Krohn, who led Hong Kong to their Plate Championship.

#### Final: Fiji 22 New Zealand 10

Although the All Blacks have long been known for challenging other teams with the Haka prior to big games, it was Fiji which took center stage this Sunday, performing a chilling war dance called the Cibi, intended to strike fear in the hearts of their enemies.

This was the game people had expected and were waiting two days to see. And it was evident that both teams had shifted into higher gears and that both had

### 1990 Top Scorers

Name	Team	Tries	Conversions	Points
1 Serevi	Fiji	2	19	46
2 Calder	Hong Kong	6	6	36
3 Lynagh	Australia	2	13	34
4 Gallagher	New Zealand	2	11	30
5 Cama	Fiji	7		28
6 Jong-Hoon	Korea	4	5	26
6 Andrew	Barbarians	2	9	26
7 Emyr	Wales	6		24
7 Horan	Australia	6		24
7 Rush	New Zealand	6		24
7 Jazi	Tunisia	3	6	24

#### TOP TRY SCORERS

Name	Team	Tries
1 Cama	Fiji	7
2 Calder	Hong Kong	6
2 Emyr	Wales	6
2 Horan	Australia	6
2 Rush	New Zealand	6
3 Carling	Barbarians	5
3 Hogg	Scottish Borders	5
3 Rasari	Fiji	5
3 Slattery	Australia	5
4 Bachop	New Zealand	4
4 Higgins	United States	4
4 Loveday	Canada	4
4 Jong-Hoon	Korea	4
4 Stanger	Scottish Borders	4
4 Bale	New Zealand	4
4 Pain	Hong Kong	4



Speedster Niko Baleiverata motors to one of his three tries in Fiji's 28-6 domination of the Eagles in preliminary play. Eagle Charlie Wilkinson is at left. (Photo - Hagerty)

the pedal to the floor.

The hitting was fierce on both sides and the amount of speed on the field enough to make an NFL scout drool.

The All Blacks struck first when Eric Rush, clearly the All Blacks' best performer on the weekend, made a break and fed the turbo charged Dallas Seymour for the first try. Terry Wright converted (6-0).

Rush then took a pass from Wright in the fourth minute to score New Zealand's second try 10-0.

Shortly thereafter a try by Serevi was disallowed, eerily reminiscent of last year, and the crowd feared that Fiji might again fall apart.

Instead their concentration improved their hitting became fiercer, and they were rewarded in the 8th minute (10 minute halves) with a try by Noa Nadruku. Serevi's conversion cut the All Blacks' margin to 10-6.

#### Second Half

The game proceeded with incredible intensity into the second minute of the second half when Fiji produced a bit of magic which will be remembered for years by those who witnessed it.

As New Zealand backed Fiji up inside their own 22, Serevi,

under intense pressure, took a pass and palmed it on to Nadruku who was facing infield. Nadruku centered the ball backwards through his legs to Tomasi Cama, who gave fleet All Black fullback John Gallagher a move and burned for the posts more than 80 yards away. Serevi converted (12-10) as the partisan crowd of 30,000 roared their approval, and although seven minutes remained, for all practical purposes the game was

Fiji's.

Fiji, however, had a debt to repay, and their huge prop Mesake Rasari closed the account with two tries. On the first he used his weight (235 pounds) and strength to surge through New Zealand's defense. Speed was his weapon on the second as he kicked ahead and outraced scrumhalf Graeme Bachop for the touch down. Serevi converted the first to bring the final score to 22-10.

Fiji	New Zealand
Rasari	1 Brooke
Rauluni	2 Seymour
Dere	3 Rush
Tabulutu	4 Bachop
Serevi	5 Schuster
Nadruku	6 Gallagher
Cama	7 Wright

Referee: Westhuizen

#### Postscript

Commenting on his team's stirring victory coach Kaitane Tuihia said:

"After losing to New Zealand in last year's semi-final, we desperately wanted to beat them this year. I prepared the team especially for New Zealand. We had to put pressure on them at all costs, and it worked."

"I told everyone when we arrived here that we would win — and that's just what we've done."

"This victory means so much to the people in Fiji. They haven't tasted success for so long and we owed it to them."

#### Hong Kong Wins Plate Title

Host Hong Kong took the Plate (or second tier championship) with a 33-12 thrashing of Japan. American Stuart Krohn again played well, contributing Hong Kong's final try.

Hong Kong reached the Plate final by beating the Netherlands 22-6 in the quarterfinals and the U.S. 16-6 in the semifinals.

In round robin play Hong Kong beat Singapore 38-0, and then suffered a heartbreaking 6-4 loss to Wales.



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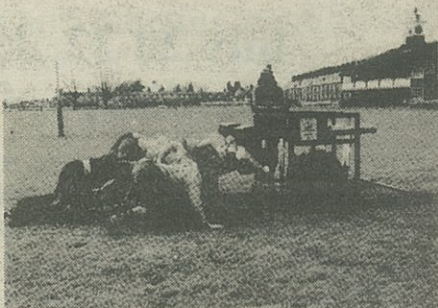
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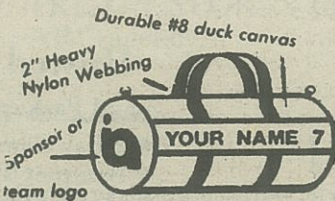
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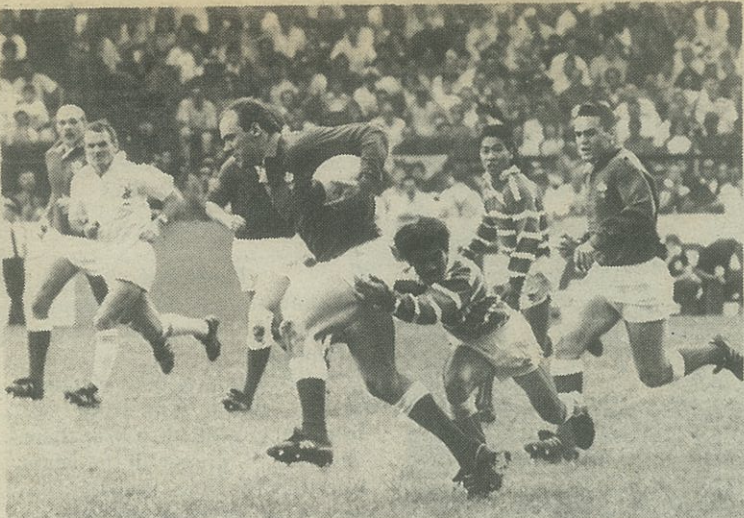
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Wing Arthur Emyr evades a tackler in Wales' 44-0 shellacking of Singapore. This Welsh side was the first official national side to come from the British Isles. (Photo - Hagerty)

#### West Germany Takes Bowl

A big, strong West German side took the Bowl final with a 28-12 win over Thailand in their first trip to Hong Kong. To reach the final they recorded a 16-8 quarterfinal win over Papua New Guinea and a 20-4 decision over the Arabian Gulf.

West Germany dropped round robin matches to the Barbarians (24-0) and Canada (18-4).

#### 7s World Cup In 1993

After just 15 short years, the IRB evidently sensed that the Hong Kong RFU was on to something with their sevens competition. As such, the IRB recently announced that a World Cup Sevens competition would take place in Scotland, birthplace of sevens, in 1993 and every four years thereafter.

Most sevens men welcome the recognition but to a man they do not want it to detract from the Hong Kong 7s.

Dien Nawaz of the Hong Kong press recorded the reaction of Australia coach Bob Dwyer:

*"We are prepared to play in any sevens competition, but we consider the Hong Kong Sevens as the World Cup and so*

*do many countries that take part every year," he said.*

*Dwyer also said that the approval by the British Unions of the International Rugby Board's (IRB) decision to hold a separate World Cup was "strange."*

*"It's funny to see that the same unions from the United Kingdom who said that the Hong Kong event was not good enough for them to send a full representative side jump to the IRB decision," said Dwyer.*

#### Fiji Scorers

Name	Tries	Conv.	Total Points
Nadruku	3		12
Serevi	2	19	46
Cama	7		28
Rasari	5		20
Rauluni	1		4
Dere	2		8
Baleiverata	3		12
Vonolagi	3		12
Tabulutu	1		4
			146

#### New Zealand Scorers

Name	Tries	Conv.	Total Points
Seymour	3	1	14
Wright	2	7	22
Rush	6		24
Gallagher	2	11	30
Bachop	4		16
Schuster	2		8
Bale	4		16
Lam	1		4
			134

## 1990 Hong Kong 7s Results

#### Preliminary Round Sat. March 31, 1990

##### POOL A

New Zealand 38, Korea 4  
New Zealand 42, Arabian Gulf 0  
Korea 22, Arabian Gulf 6

##### POOL B

Scottish Borderers 30, Japan 0  
Scottish Borderers 24, Sri Lanka 0  
Japan 20, Sri Lanka 12

##### POOL C

Western Samoa 28, Tunisia 8  
Western Samoa 14, New Guinea 4  
Tunisia 18, New Guinea 6

##### POOL D

Barbarians 26, Canada 6  
Barbarians 24, West Germany 0  
Canada 18, West Germany 4

##### POOL E

Fiji 28, United States 6  
Fiji 34, Thailand 0  
United States 18, Thailand 12

##### POOL F

Tonga 18, Soviet Union 16  
Tonga 16, Taipei 4  
Soviet Union 22, Taipei 6

##### POOL G

Wales 6, Hong Kong 4  
Wales 44, Singapore 0  
Hong Kong 38, Singapore 0

##### POOL H

Australia 42, Netherlands 0  
Australia 48, Malaysia 0  
Netherlands 18, Malaysia 0

#### CUP CHAMPIONSHIP Sun. April 1, 1990

New Zealand 20	New Zealand 24	New Zealand 10
S. Borderers 12	Barbarians 6	
W. Samoa 10		
Barbarians 18		
Fiji 28	Fiji 34	Fiji 22
Tonga 12		
Wales 16	Wales 6	
Australia 10		

#### PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP Sun. April 1, 1990

South Korea 12	Japan 18	Japan 12
Japan 18		
Tunisia 16	Tunisia 6	
Canada 8		
Eagles 30	Eagles 6	
Soviet Union 4		
Hong Kong 22	Hong Kong 16	Hong Kong 33
Netherlands 6		

#### BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP Sun. April 1, 1990

Arabian Gulf 24	Arabian Gulf 4	W. Germany 28
Sri Lanka 0		
New Guinea 8	W. Germany 20	
W. Germany 16		
Thailand 13	Thailand 10	Thailand 12
Taipei 8		
Singapore 6	Malaysia 4	
Malaysia 12		

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# U.S. Posts 2-2 Record in Hong Kong

by Ed Hagerty

**Hong Kong**  
**March 31, April 1, 1990**

The Eagles' 1990 Odyssey to the Hong Kong 7s produced unspectacular, but competent performances (2 wins, 2 losses) and concluded when the U.S. was beaten in the 2nd tier semifinal by eventual Plate champion Hong Kong.

## 4 Games

The Eagles had a shaky start, pulling out a narrow 18-12 win over Thailand and then losing their second match to eventual Cup champion Fiji (28-6).

In the much anticipated Plate quarterfinal on Sunday, the U.S. crushed a listless Soviet side 30-4 before being knocked out by Hong Kong (16-6).

## Experience

Seven of this year's nine Eagles had been to Hong Kong previously and wing Gary Hein (Oxford Univ.) had extensive experience on the Eagle 15s side. Only scrumhalf Chris Petrakes (MOB) was a total newcomer to international competition.

The Eagles were one of the event's oldest teams with an average age of 29.

**Game I:**  
**UNITED STATES 18,**  
**THAILAND 12**  
**March 31, 1990**

Thailand, whom the U.S. had beaten comfortably in both 1988 and 1989, was not expected to give the Eagles much competition. But no one bothered to inform the Thais and the Eagles were fortunate to manage an 18-12 win.

The Eagles had a weight advantage in the forwards of almost 50 pounds per man but the Thais were very fit and forced errors with their tenacious defense.

U.S. Wing Kevin Higgins started things off well when he took the opening kickoff and raced 60 yards for a try. This conversion, and the following two, were off the mark.

Thailand came back in the third minute when they popped over the heads of Eagle defenders on a penalty play, and Suravut Sutta beat them into the end zone for a try.

Captain Jimmy Wilkinson regained the lead for the Eagles when he took a pass after a nice break by Dave Poquette (8-4).

Just on halftime Kevin Higgins got possession from a lineout, beat the Thai center, and raced 55 yards for his second try. (12-



**Eagle Kevin Higgins attacks in the United States' 18-12 first-round victory over Thailand. The Eagles went on to lose to Hong Kong (16-6) in the Plate Semifinal and ended with a 2-2 overall record. (Photo - Hagerty).**

4).

## Second Half

A bad pass by Jim Wilkinson on the second half kickoff resulted in an interception and try by Chuchep Kumfung (12-8).

Jim Wilkinson redeemed himself in the fourth minute when he intercepted a lineout on the Thai line and fell in for the try. Barry Tofaeono converted (18-9).

In the 6th minute another Eagle pass went astray, the Thai's kicked ahead and Tirapong Thavornwong touched down to bring the final score to 18-12.

U.S.	Thailand
Lambert	1 Kumfung
Wilkinson	2 Sutta
Poquette	3 Budnampeth
Petrakes	4 Thongplub
Wilkinson	5 Srilad
Higgins	6 Thavornwong
Tofaeono	7 Kassuwan

**Referee:** Saitoh

**Game II:**  
**FIJI 28,**  
**UNITED STATES 6**  
**March 31, 1989**

The Eagles second match brought them face to face with four time Hong Kong champion Fiji. And as with all opponents the talented Fijians faced this year the Eagles could provide little more than token opposition.

Utilizing a high pressure defense, the playmaking of two time Hong Kong MVP Waisale Serevi and their incredible speed, Fiji posted a 16-0 halftime lead on tries by Niko Baleiverata (2)

and Tomasi Cama, as well as two Serevi conversions.

## Second Half

Baleiverata scored his third try of the match a minute into the second half and Serevi's conversion brought the tally to 22-0.

At this point in the match the Eagles settled down and began to implement coach Signes' philosophy: play, keep away, go for the gap, regroup and attack again.

After just missing a try when

Gary Hein lost control crossing the line, Eagle forward Dave Poquette scored in the fifth minute on a penalty play from about 5 yards out. Chris Petrakes made the difficult conversion (22-6).

The 20 year old Serevi, who last year supplanted David Campese as Hong Kong's "must see" athlete, then scored and converted his own try to bring the final tally to 28-6.

## Tremendous Physical Talent

The extent of Fiji's physical talent was best illustrated in the second half when their biggest man, 6'5" 235 pound Mesake Rasari, ran down the Eagle's fastest man Kevin Higgins, who runs a legitimate 4.6 40. Gary Hein who captained a Division I football team at Cal-Berkeley felt Rasari could play tight end in the NFL. Hein also noted that Severi had the makings of an NFL running back. "Obviously he'd have to be more disciplined but he's got the initial acceleration, to get through a hole, the speed and all the moves," said Hein.

(Continued on page 10)



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The U.S. Eagles 7s squad in Hong Kong. (FRONT, L-R) C. Wilkinson, Higgins, Lambert, J. Wilkinson, Tofaeono, Hein. (BACK) Signes (coach), Petrakes, Poquette, Brewington, Parnell (physician), Ayub (trainer).



U.S. Fiji  
J. Wilkinson 1 Rasari  
Brewington 2 Rauluni  
Poquette 3 Dore  
Petrakes 4 Tabulutu  
C. Wilkinson 5 Serevi  
Higgins 6 Baleiverata  
Hein 7 Cama  
Referee: Westhuizen

**Game III:**  
**UNITED STATES 30,**  
**SOVIET UNION 4**  
**April 1, 1990**

Predictable defeats to seeded teams on Saturday set up a meeting at high noon Sunday between the world's two superpowers: the U.S. and The USSR. To their credit, the Hong Kong organizers played it for all it was worth announcing the touch judges as G. Bush and M. Gorbachev.

Unfortunately, however, the matchup looked much better on paper than it played out in reality as the Eagles whipped the listless Bears 30-4.

In addition to their inexperience at sevens, the Russians were suffering from the affects of



U. S. Referee Jim Russell

a tough 3 week tour to Australia and the loss of top wing Igor Kuperman who was injured during their match with Taipei.

The Eagles came out of the blocks fast and posted a 20-0 halftime lead before the Bears even got on the board.

Captain Jimmy Wilkinson started the parade with a 20 yard



Eagle wing Barry Tofaeono (formerly Williams) leads a U.S. attack against the Soviet Union. The U.S. won 30-4. (Photo - Hagerty)

try in the first minute (4-0)

Wilkinson was also involved in the Eagles' second try, taking a pass from Will Brewington and delivering it to Gary Lambert for the big man's 25 yard run to the line.

Four minutes into the match, Barry Tofaeono sidestepped a Soviet defender, turned an the jets and went 70 yards for the Eagles' third try. Although he had missed the first two conversions, Tofaeono hit the third to bring the score to 14-0.

Tofaeono then closed out first half scoring when he kicked ahead from his own 22. The ball took a funny bounce and was fielded by Jimmy Wilkinson who fed Barry for the try which Tofaeono converted (20-0).

**Second Half**

The Soviets avoided a white-wash on the second half kickoff when Jimmy Wilkinson threw a pass right into the arms of Russian captain Igor Mironov who went 15 yards for the score. Mironov indulged in a bit of hot dogging, holding the ball out one-handed, just above the ground, before touching down.

Gary Lambert mimicked Mironov in the third minute when he scored at the end of a forty yard break featuring Hein and Brewington. For good mea-

sure the 6'5" 235 pound Lambert ran over a Russian defender as he circled in to touch down between the posts. Tofaeono's conversion was good (26-4).

The Eagles' final score started from a penalty near midfield. The ball came out to playmaker Charlie Wilkinson who, noticing that the Soviets had no sweeper, chipped over their leads. Alert to the play, Kevin Higgins ran the kick down, grubbed into the end zone and fell on the ball for the try. The conversion was off the mark, leaving the final score at 30-4.

U.S.	USSR
Lambert	1 Sokolov
Higgins	2 Bychkov
J. Wilkinson	3 Tikonov
Brewington	4 Mironov
C. Wilkinson	5 Charkov
Hein	6 Voropaev
Tofaeono	7 Nikolaev

Referee: Hilditch

**Game IV:**

**HONG KONG 16,**  
**UNITED STATES 6**

**April 1, 1990**

The United States' lost their Plate semifinal to Hong Kong 16-6, the identical margin by which the hosts (and eventual Plate champions) beat them in 1989.

The Eagles' 1989 loss was considered an embarrassment by U.S. administrators and was generally attributed to the expatriate team's ability to operate in rainy conditions. This year, however, it was generally considered that Hong Kong had a fitter, faster, better drilled side than the U.S. Indeed, they were very unlucky to lose to Wales 6-4 in round robin play.

Viewed logically, there should really be no surprise over Hong Kong's rising on-field fortunes. As the Sevens have achieved financial and popular success, more and more top flight players have come to call the Colony home.

This year's squad included the tournament's second leading scorer (6 tries, 6 conversions) in Ian Calder a former New Zealand Colt and Wellington provincial player (1989); halfback Craig Pain a British Colleges representative who tied for fourth in try scoring (with 4); and last but not least, Stuart Krohn, a globe trotting, 27 year old 6'4", 225 pound forward from U.C. Santa Barbara who was the best American forward in Hong Kong.

**1st Half**

The Eagles started off well enough against Hong Kong, winning a lineout inside their own 22 and getting the ball to Kevin Higgins who went 80 yards for a try. Barry Tofaeono's

conversion gave them a 6-0 lead in the fourth minute.

Just before halftime, however, David Bulbeck's unconverted try cut the Eagles' margin to 6-4.

**2nd Half**

The second half was all Hong Kong as first Stuart Krohn and then Craig Pain touched down. Gary Acheson converted both (16-6) and Hong Kong was through to the plate final where they dismantled Japan 33-12.

U.S.	Hong Kong
Poquette	1 Krohn
Higgins	2 Cross
J. Wilkinson	3 Bulbeck
Petrakes	4 Pain
C. Wilkinson	5 Calder
Hein	6 Shaw
Tofaeono	7 Strange*

\* replaced by Acheson

**1990 U.S. EAGLE SCORERS**

Name	Tries	Conv.	Pts.
Tofaeono	2	5	18
Higgins	4		16
Wilkinson	3		12
Lambert	2		8
Poquette	1		4
Petrakes		1	2

**Postscript**

There was no shortage of expert commentary from Eagle camp followers on how this tactical refinement or that selection change could have altered the outcome. It appeared to this observer that the U.S. fielded close to its best possible side and, based on the opposition, that team performed according to form.

Viewing the teams on an overall basis, each of the 24 can be slotted into one of five levels of play. The Eagles' performance this year places them toward the top of level three.

These levels were worked out for the purpose of illustration, with the teams listed alphabetically within each.

**Level I**

Fiji  
New Zealand

**Level II**  
Australia  
Barbarians  
Scottish Borderers  
Tonga  
Wales  
Western Samoa

**Level III**  
American Eagles  
Canada  
Japan  
Korea  
Hong Kong  
Tunisia  
Soviet Union

**Level IV**  
Netherlands  
Thailand  
West Germany  
Taiwan

**Level V**  
Arabian Gulf  
Malaysia  
Papua New Guinea  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka

Both Fiji and New Zealand have excellent teamwork and NFL caliber athletes with blazing speed who are superb ballhandlers and defenders.

The level two teams have good ballhandlers with good speed, but lack the defense and teamwork of Fiji or New Zealand.

The Eagles are faced with a dilemma. In order to field a team which will avoid the mistakes that lead to sure tries against Level I & II teams, the U.S. must select experienced, older players like Jim Wilkinson (32), Charles Wilkinson (33) and Dave Poquette (33) who lack the speed of the level I & II players. Faster U.S. players are available at these positions but the team would be significantly weaker due to the loss of tactical awareness and ballhandling that these players provide.

The only solution to this problem is to attract a better class of athlete to the game at a younger age. And this we may be able to do, in time, by: a) starting collegiate sevens programs; b) introducing the masses to the wonders of sevens via the magic of TV.

**Tofaeono Returns**

The 1990 Hong Kong Sevens marked the return to form of Eagle wing Barry Tofaeono who suffered a serious knee injury at this event last year. Tofaeono emerged as the Eagles' top scorer with 18 points (2 tries, 5 conversions) in three games. Though he appears to have lost a step, which he should be able to regain through training, Tofaeono's devastating sidestep is in fine working order.

Considered by many to be the Eagles' best back ever, his return to the lineup could give the Eagles a boost in their upcoming match against Canada.



Members of America's Team in town for the Hong Kong 10s: (L-R) Dan Kilen, Bruce Monroe, Jake Burkhardt, Ian Gunn, John Jelaco.

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